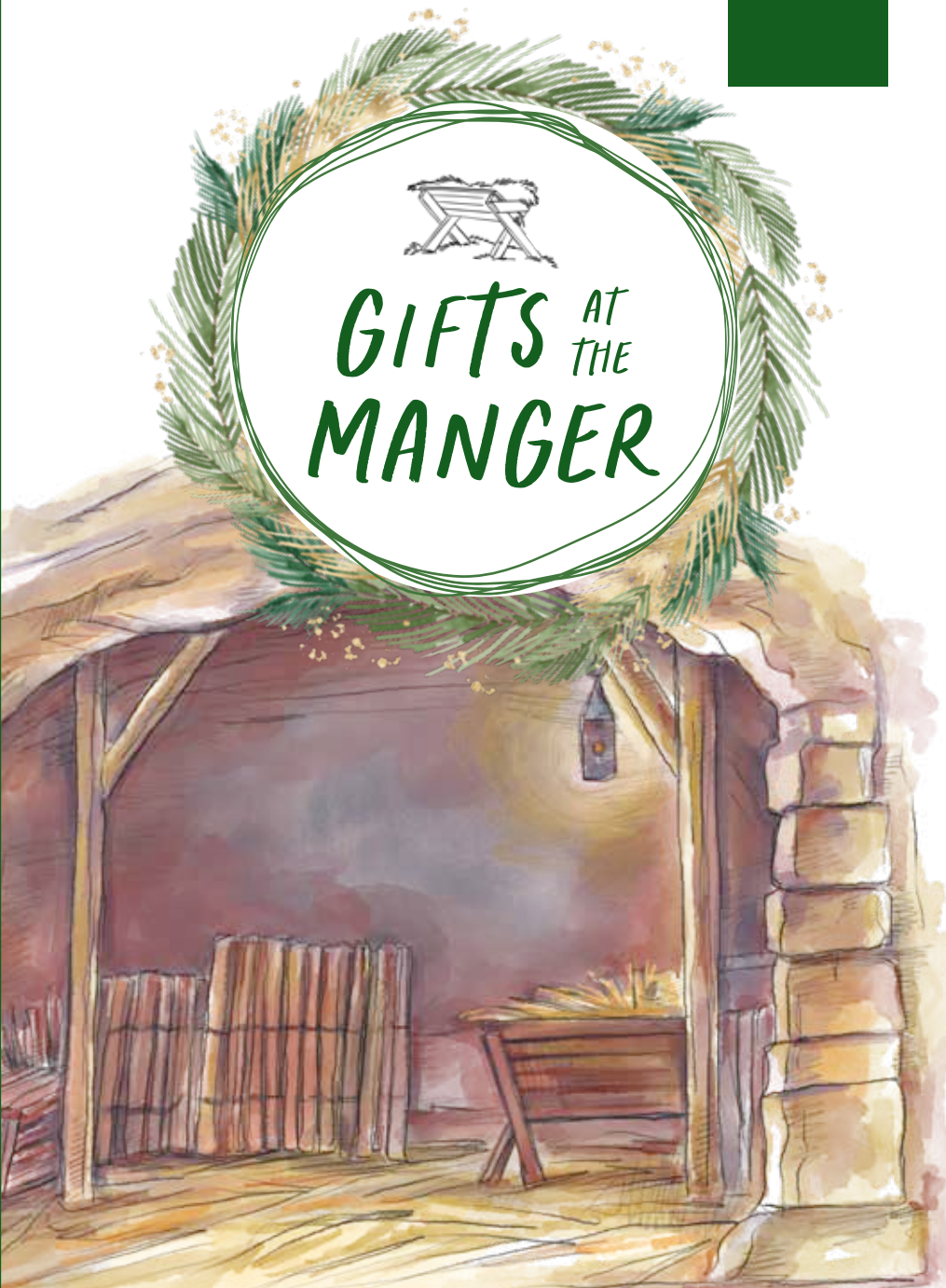




The illustration depicts a rustic manger scene. A circular frame, decorated with a green pine branch and gold star-like ornaments, is centered at the top. Inside this frame, a small drawing of a manger is positioned above the title. The background shows the interior of a stable with wooden beams, a stone wall on the right, and a manger filled with straw. A lantern hangs from the ceiling, casting a warm glow.

GIFTS AT THE MANGER

↓
A Christmas
Bible Study

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WHAT'S IN THIS Study?

DAY 1: The Gift in the Manger

DAY 2: Mary's Gift

DAY 3: Joseph's Gift

DAY 4: From Angels to Shepherds

DAY 5: The Gifts of the Wise Men

DAY 6: Hope

DAY 7: Compassionate Mercy

DAY 8: Lasting Peace

DAY 9: Bursting Joy

DAY 10: Steadfast Love

DAY 11: True Rest

DAY 12: The Final Sacrifice

DAY 13: Our Salvation

DAY 14: His Word

DAY 15: His Spirit

DAY 16: Spiritual Gifts

DAY 17: Eternal Life With Him

DAY 18: Examples of Godliness

DAY 19: Our Hearts

DAY 20: Our Obedience

DAY 21: Our Worship

DAY 22: Our Trust

DAY 23: Our Love

DAY 24: Our Lives

DAY 25: Glory in the Christmas Story



Primary Level

The Gift in the Manger

Have you ever felt like someone gave you a gift because they wanted something? Maybe a sibling gave you some candy but later asked you to clean the bathroom for them.



When someone gives you a gift but expects something from you, it's not a true gift. A true **gift** is something given freely and willingly without wanting something in return. To learn about true gift giving, we need to look at the Christmas story!

Read **Luke 2:1-7**. What story do these verses tell about?

The birth of Jesus is the whole reason we celebrate Christmas! Jesus was actually the first and greatest Christmas gift ever given. John 3:16 tells us that God sent Jesus to this world willingly because He loves us!

Read KEY VERSE **John 1:14**. Who do you think this verse is talking about?

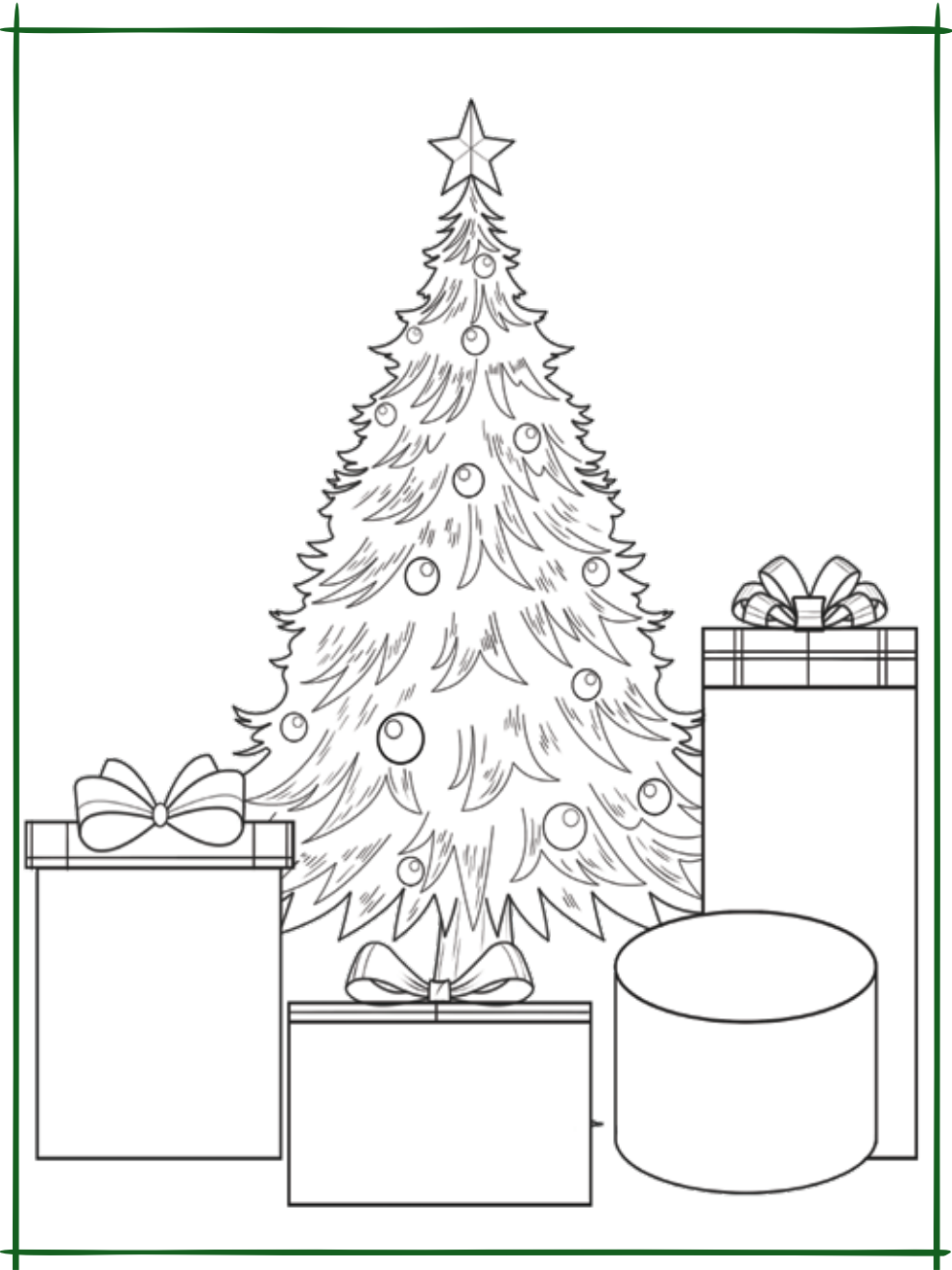
God's Word explains to us that Jesus (the Word) became flesh, which means He came to earth in a physical body as a little baby. Jesus, God's greatest gift to us, shined the brilliant light of grace and truth into the dark sinfulness of our world. Not only was Jesus the greatest gift ever given, but as John 1:16-17 tells us, it is through Him that we have received so many gifts of grace from God.

**God showed us His grace and
His goodness by giving us Jesus.**

The story of Christmas is FULL of examples of God's gracious gifts, and these gifts are what we'll be learning about every day of this study.

What are some gifts from the Christmas story that you can think of?

Draw pictures in the presents under the tree of some of the gifts God has given you and your family.



Take some time to pray now. Thank God for the gift of Jesus, and ask Him to help you learn more about Him as you work through this study.

*Find today's JESUS gift sticker and add it to the manger on pages 4-5.

We have talked about so many gifts God has given us through Jesus! Can you name one of the gifts God has given us through the Christmas story?

Read **Hebrews 1:1–2**. Who did God speak through? (*Hint: There are two answers!*)

For a while, God used prophets to speak to His people, but they were pointing God's people to an even better Word to come. Verse 2 tells us that now God has spoken to us through His Son, Jesus!

What did Jesus do while He was here on earth?

Jesus preached the truth to all who would listen. He also worked miracles to show who God is and what He is like. Jesus taught His disciples the truth and then sent them out to teach others. This is how God spoke through Him!

Read ^{KEY VERSE} **John 17:17**. What did Jesus say is truth?

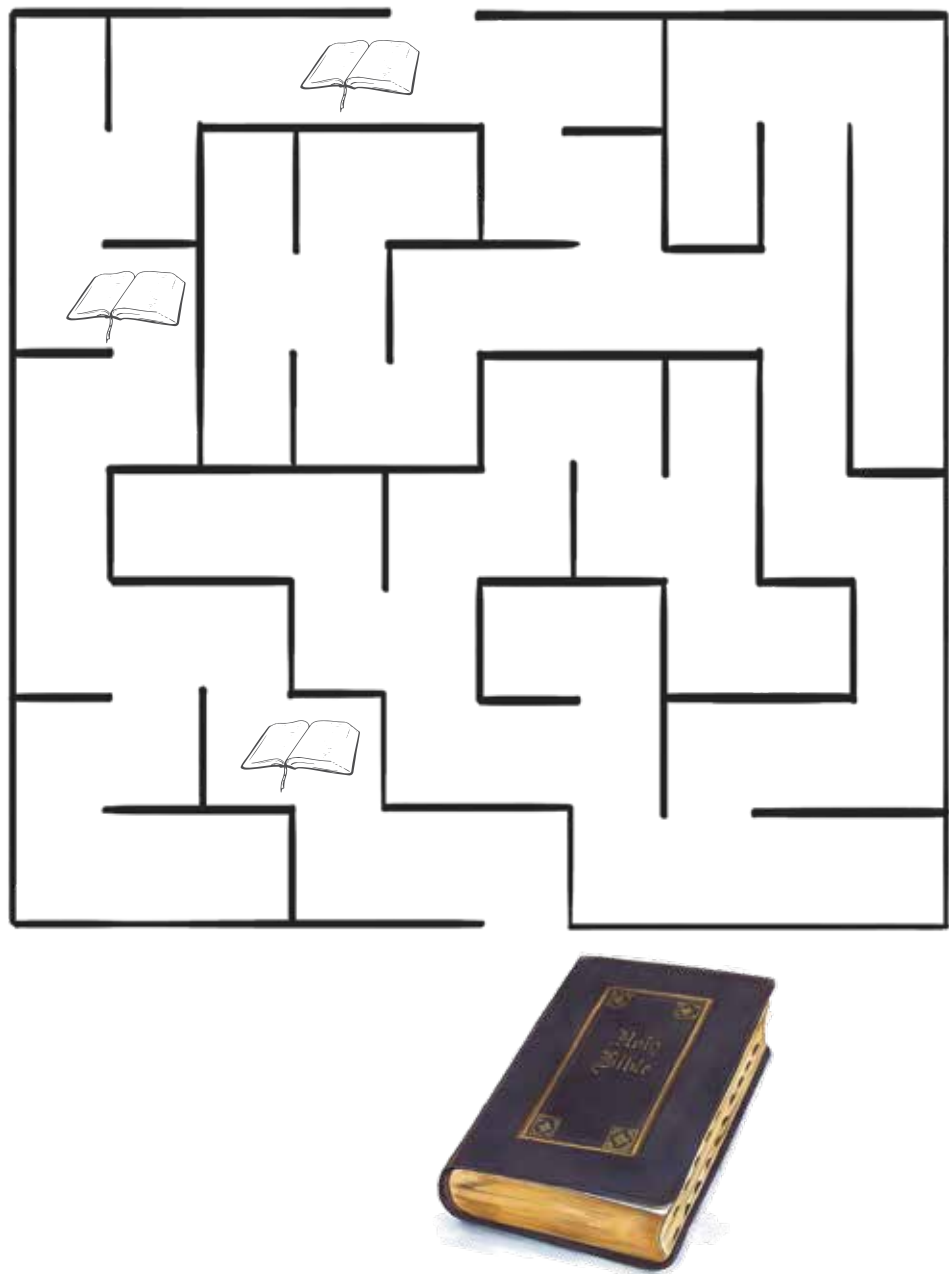
God's Word is the truth where we learn how to become more like Him!

**God has given us His Word to help us grow
and become more like Jesus.**

2 Timothy 3:16–17 tells us that ALL Scripture is valuable and important in our growth! There is not one verse in the Bible that is unimportant or unnecessary. **God's Word** is an extremely valuable gift because it shows us who God is and why He matters to us.

What is one reason you are thankful for the gift of God's Word?

God's Word helps us find the right path! Follow the Bibles to reach the end of the maze.



Today, ask God to help you remember that the Bible is one of His gifts to you. Thank Him for showing you who He is through His Word.

*Find today's HIS WORD gift sticker and add it to the manger on pages 4-5.



Merry Christmas! You have faithfully worked through this study, and now it's time to celebrate all that you have learned. Explain in your own words what a gift is.



What are
2 of the
gifts God
gives us?



What is
one gift
can we give
to God?



Who is the
greatest
gift?

Let's look at one more truth to help you live for God, not only at Christmas but also during the rest of the year.

Read ^{KEY VERSES} **Romans 11:33–36**. What do these verses say about God?

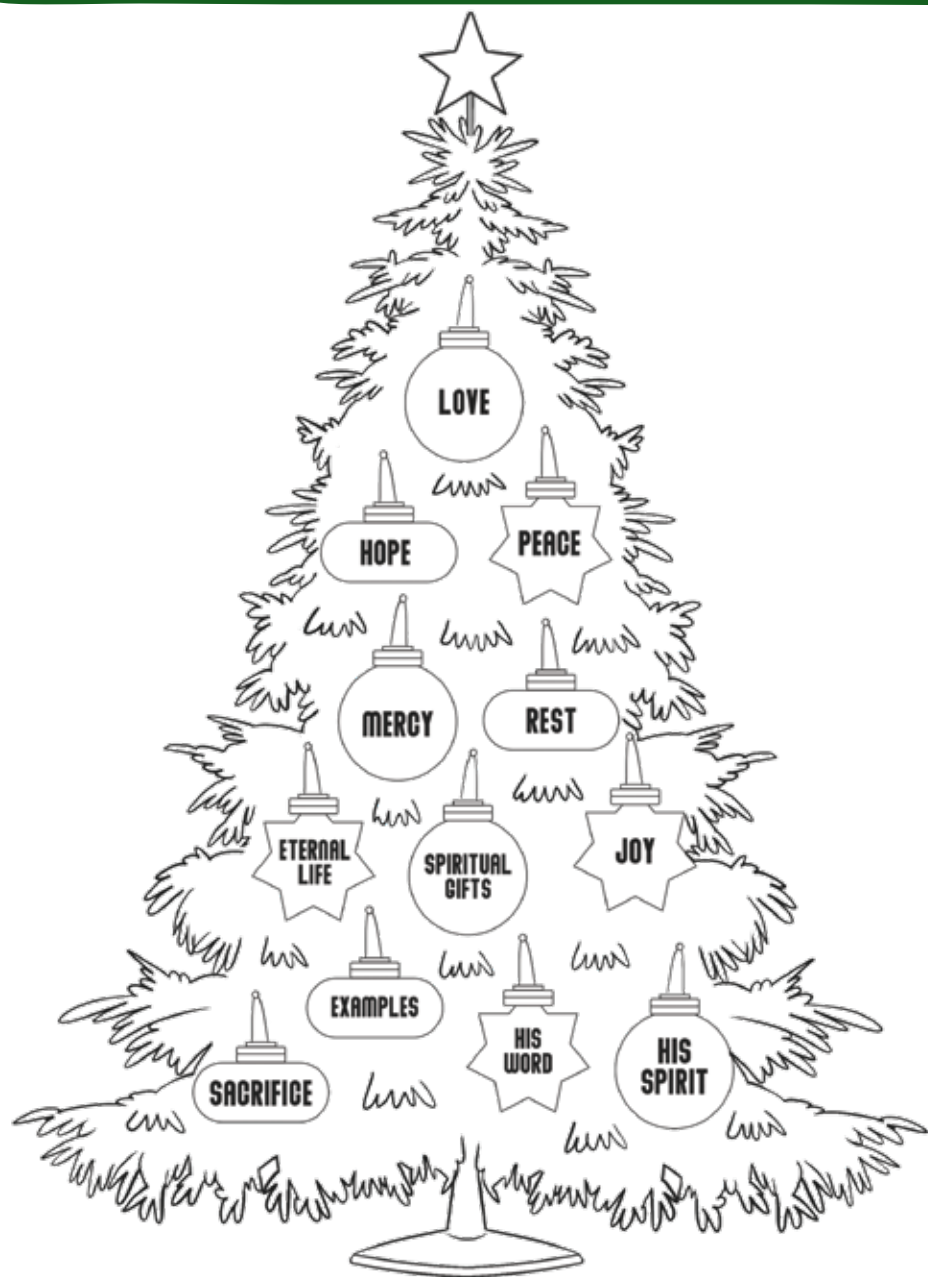
The story of our salvation shows us how wise our God is—He knows everything! He has been so gracious and kind that no one could ever give Him a gift great enough to “repay” Him.

There is no gift great enough
to repay God's overwhelmingly
kind and good gifts to us.

We can serve God with our lives and share the good news of the free gift of salvation with others! What can you do to spread this good news right now and in the coming year?

As you celebrate Christmas, I hope you rejoice in the Christmas story—a picture of God's infinite love for us.

Use the stickers to decorate the tree for Christmas and review the gifts we learned that God gives us through Jesus.



Today, thank God for His kindness and grace to you. Ask Him to help you serve Him with your life and always be thankful for the gifts He has given you.

Junior Level

The Gift in the Manger

Have you ever received a gift that seemed to come with strings attached? Maybe a sibling gave you some candy but then later asked you to clean the bathroom for them. You may have attached some strings yourself when you hoped that giving your friend a really thoughtful present for their birthday would mean they would give you a cool gift for your birthday!

A true **gift** is something given freely and willingly with no expectation of payment in return. Most of us really don't look at gifts this way, though! We give and receive gifts because we want something, not to bless the other person!

In this study, we'll learn about the Christmas story by focusing on the true gifts that were given and why those gifts matter for us! Let's start in the book of Luke.

Read **Luke 2:1-7**. What event do these verses tell about?



The birth of Jesus is the whole reason we celebrate Christmas! Maybe you have been told that "Jesus is the reason for the season," and this is the truth! But it can be easy to forget that Jesus was actually the first and greatest Christmas gift ever given. John 3:16 tells us that God sent Jesus to this world willingly because He loves us!

Read ^{KEY VERSE} **John 1:14**. What do you think this verse is saying?

God's glory is full of

and

God's Word explains to us that Jesus (the Word) became flesh by coming to earth in a physical body as a little baby. Jesus is the Word of God who came to earth, showing us what God is like. **Jesus**, God's greatest gift to us, shined the brilliant light of grace and truth into the dark sinfulness of our world.

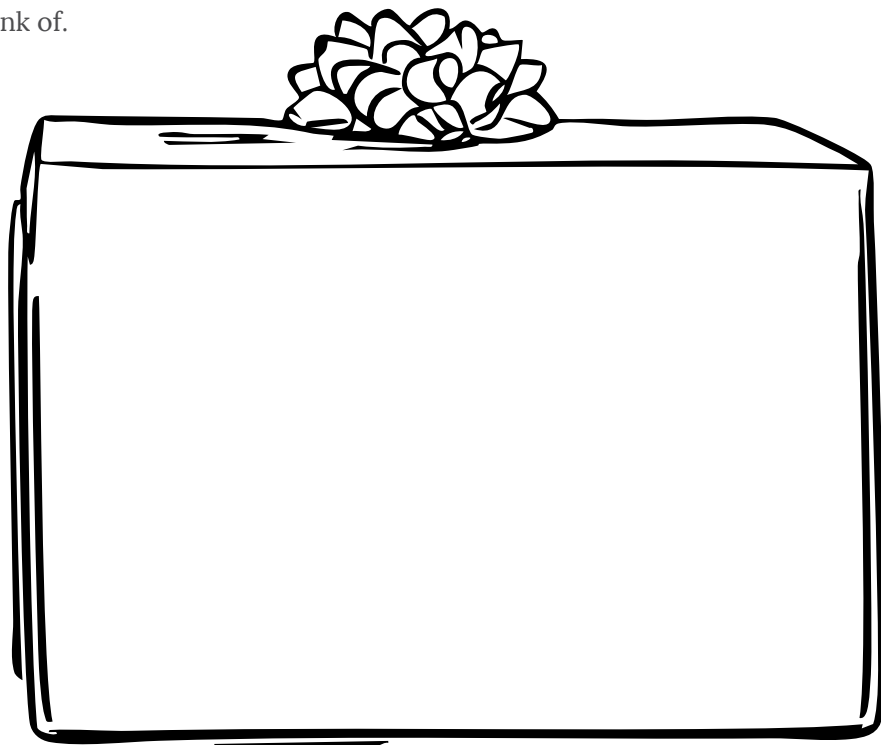
In the Bible, “grace” is kindness shown to someone who does not and could not deserve it. For example, Jesus died for our sins when we did not deserve it. Not only was Jesus the greatest gift ever given, but as John 1:16–17 tells us, it is through Him that we have received countless gifts of grace from God.



God showed us His grace and His goodness by giving us Jesus.

The story of Christmas is stuffed FULL of examples of God’s gracious gifts, and these gifts are what we’ll be learning about every day of this study.

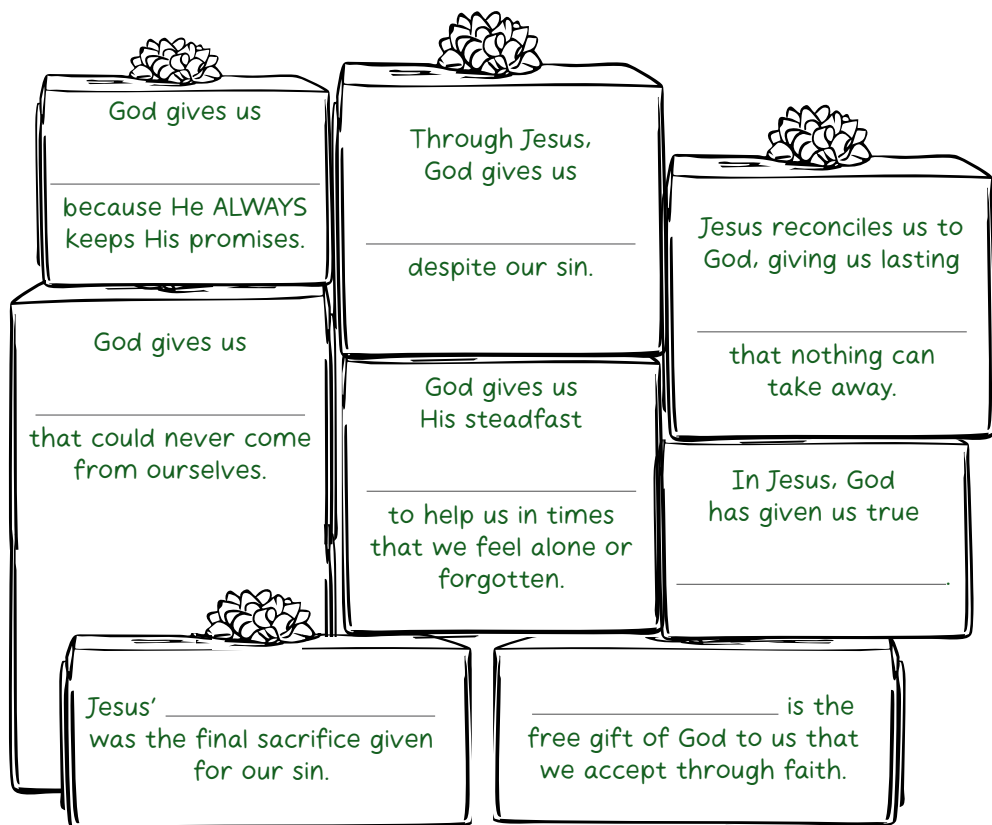
Draw or write down some of the gifts from the Christmas story that you can think of.



Take some time to pray now. Thank God for the gift of Jesus, and ask Him to help you learn more about Him as you work through this study.

*Find today’s JESUS gift sticker and add it to the manger on pages 4–5.

We have talked about so many gifts God has given us through Jesus! Let's review just a bit before we continue looking at more of the many gifts God has given to us. Fill in the gift of God that completes each key truth from Days 6–13.



Great work! Now, let's continue learning about the gifts God has given us.

Read **Hebrews 1:1–2**. What has God done according to this passage?

In this study, we have looked at several passages of Scripture that were messages God gave His people through prophets He sent to them.

These prophets served God and the people for a time, but they were pointing God's people to an even better Word to come. Verse 2 tells us that now, God has spoken to us through His Son, Jesus!

Read ^{KEY VERSE} **John 17:17**. What did Jesus pray that God would do?

Before Jesus went to the cross to die for our sin, He prayed for us. That's right! Jesus prayed that God would preserve and help all believers. But then Jesus also prayed that we would be sanctified through the truth—God's Word. Sanctification is a big word for the way we grow once we are saved! We are sanctified as we learn the truth about God and become more like Jesus. This change continues to happen throughout our whole lives as we follow Jesus and seek to do His will. God's true Word is where we learn how to grow and become more like Him!

God has given us His Word to help us grow
and become more like Jesus.

Read **2 Timothy 3:16–17** and fill in the blank.

_____ Scripture is profitable for us.

There is not one verse in the Bible that is unimportant or unnecessary. **God's Word** is an extremely valuable gift because it shows us who God is and why He matters to us.



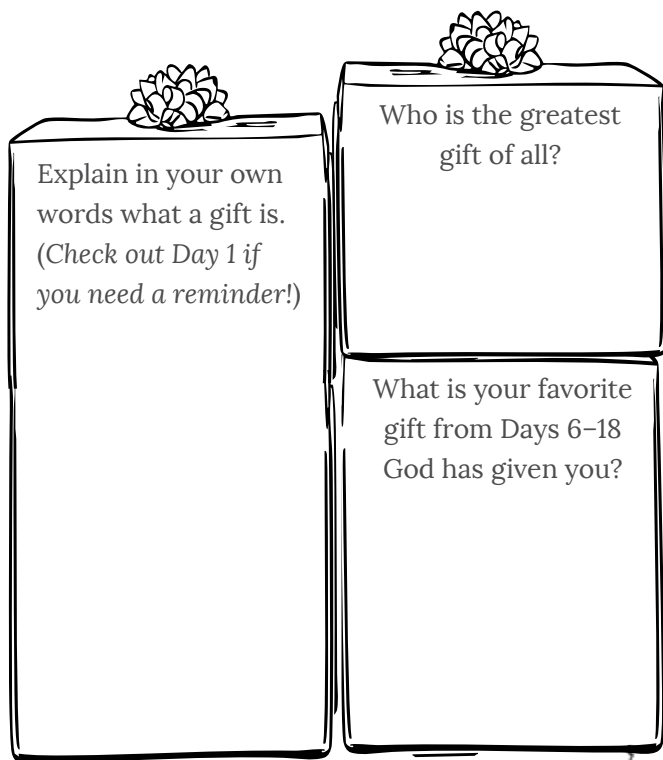
Why are you thankful that God has given us His Word?

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Today, ask God to help you remember that the Bible is one of His gifts to you. Thank Him for revealing Himself to you in this way.

*Find today's HIS WORD gift sticker and add it to the manger on pages 4-5.

Merry Christmas! You have faithfully worked through this study, and now it's time to celebrate all the knowledge you have gained and truth you have learned. Before you finish this study, though, let's review the gifts we discovered in the Christmas story!



Let's look at one more truth you can take with you as you live your life for God's glory, not only at Christmas but also throughout the year.

Read ^{KEY VERSES} **Romans 11:33-36**. What truths do these verses teach us?

There is no gift great enough to repay God's overwhelmingly kind and good gifts to us.



All we see and know have come from God, the Creator, who made everything and keeps it all going. He gives us the breath in our lungs and the salvation of our souls.

Instead of trying to “pay God back” in some way, which isn’t possible anyway, we get to live our lives in gratitude and thankfulness to Him. We can serve Him with our lives and share the good news of the free gift of salvation with others!

What can you do to spread this good news right now and in the coming year?



As you celebrate Christmas, I hope you rejoice in the Christmas story—the proof of God’s infinite love for us.

Today, thank God for His kindness and grace to you. Ask Him to help you serve Him with your life and always be thankful for the gifts He has given you.

Youth Level

The Gift in the Manger

Have you ever received a gift that seemed to come with strings attached? Maybe a sibling gave you some candy but then later asked you to clean the bathroom for them. You may have attached some strings yourself when you hoped that giving your friend a really cool present for their birthday would mean they would return the favor!

In this study, we'll learn about the Christmas story by focusing on the true gifts that were given and why those gifts matter for us! Let's start in the book of Luke.

Read *Luke 2:1-7*. What event do these verses tell about?

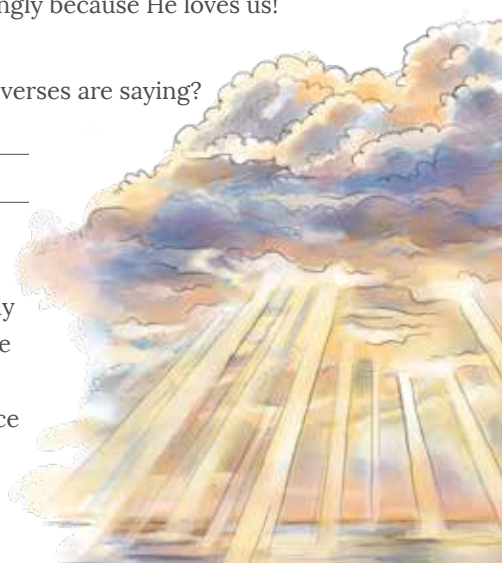
A true **gift** is something given freely and willingly with no expectation of payment or reciprocation. Most of us really don't look at gifts this way, though!

Often, the expectations or guilt we feel connected to giving or receiving gifts comes from our own selfishness. We want people to recognize our sacrifice and give back to us with equal effort or care. Maybe we expect certain gifts because we want to feel special on our birthdays or finally get that top item on our wishlist.

The birth of Jesus is the whole reason we celebrate Christmas! Maybe you have been told that "Jesus is the reason for the season," and this is the truth! But it can be easy to forget that Jesus was actually the first and greatest Christmas gift ever given. John 3:16 tells us that God sent Jesus to this world willingly because He loves us!

Read KEY VERSES *John 1:14-17*. What do you think these verses are saying?

God's Word explains to us that Jesus (the Word) became flesh by coming to earth in a physical body as a little baby. Jesus is the Word of God who came to earth, showing us what God is like. Jesus, God's greatest gift to us, shined the brilliant light of grace and truth into the dark sinfulness of our world.



Do you know what “grace” means? Write your best guess below.

» _____

The Bible uses the word “grace” to mean undeserved and unearned favor. It is kindness shown to someone who does not and could not deserve it. Doesn’t that sound similar to the meaning of “gift”? Most often, we see “grace” used in connection with God’s kindness and goodness in offering us salvation through Jesus! Not only was Jesus the greatest gift ever given, but as John 1:16-17 tells us, it is through Him that we have received countless gifts of grace from God.

God showed us His grace
and His goodness by giving us *Jesus*.

The story of Christmas is stuffed FULL of examples of God’s gracious gifts, and these gifts are what we’ll be learning about every day of this study. You’ll find that the Christmas story is not just contained in that one night in Bethlehem where Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, and the angels welcomed baby Jesus into this world. The truth of the Christmas story—that God has poured out gracious gifts on us—pops up everywhere in God’s true Word!

What gifts from the Christmas story can you think of? List as many as you can below.

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Take some time to pray now. Thank God for the gift of Jesus, and ask Him to help you learn more about Him as you work through this study.

*Find today’s JESUS gift sticker and add it to the manger on pages 4–5.

We have talked about so many gifts God has given us through Jesus! Let's review just a bit before we continue looking at more of the many gifts God has given to us.

Fill in the gifts of God from Days 6-13.

















Great work! Now, let's continue learning about the gifts God has graciously showered upon us.

Read *Hebrews 1:1-2*. What has God done according to this passage?

In this study, we have looked at several passages of Scripture that were messages God gave His people through prophets He sent to them. These prophets served God and the people for a time, but they were pointing God's people to an even better Word to come. Verse 2 tells us that now, God has spoken to us through His Son, Jesus!

While Jesus was on the earth, He preached the truth to all who would listen. He also showed them who God is and what He is like by the miracles and mighty works He performed. Jesus taught His disciples the truth and then sent them out to teach others. But this is not all! After Jesus went back to heaven to be with the Father, He sent the Holy Spirit to be our Helper as we seek to live for Him.

Read KEY VERSE *John 17:17*. What did Jesus pray that God would do?

Before Jesus went to the cross to die for our sin, He prayed for us. That's right! Jesus prayed that God would preserve and help all believers. But then Jesus also prayed that we would be sanctified through the truth—God's Word.

Do you know what it means to be “sanctified”? Write your best guess below.

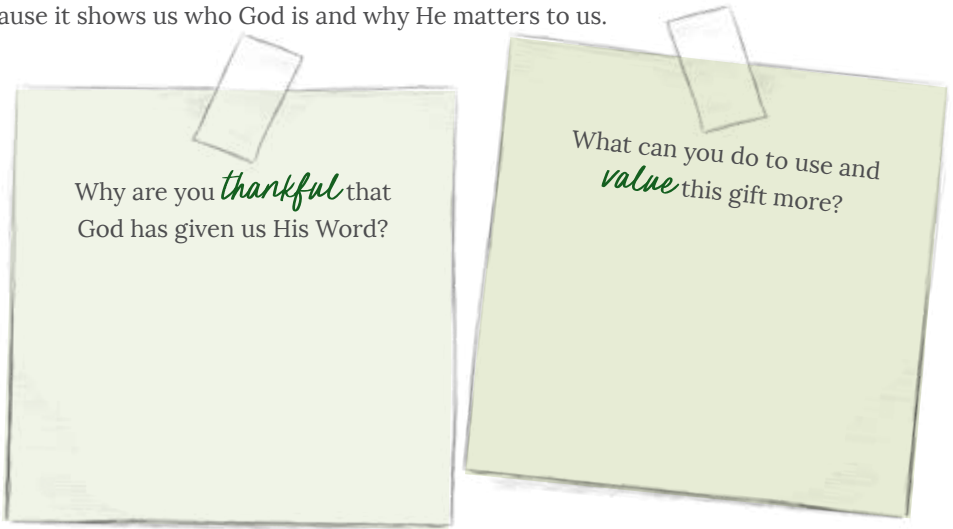
Sanctification is a process that begins in us as soon as we place our faith in Jesus for salvation! We are sanctified as we learn the truth about God and become more like Jesus. This change continues to happen throughout our whole lives as we follow Jesus and seek to do His will. God’s true Word is where we learn how to grow and become more like Him!

God has given us *His Word* to help us grow
and become more like Jesus.



Read *2 Timothy 3:16-17*. What do these verses say about God’s Word?

ALL Scripture is valuable and important in our growth! There is not one verse in the Bible that is unimportant or unnecessary. **God’s Word** is an extremely valuable gift because it shows us who God is and why He matters to us.



Today, ask God to help you remember that the Bible is one of His gifts to you. Thank Him for revealing Himself to you in this way.

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Merry Christmas! You have faithfully worked through this study, and now it's time to celebrate all the knowledge you have gained and truth you have learned. Before you finish this study, though, let's review the gifts we discovered in the Christmas story!

Explain in your own words what a gift is. (Check out Day 1 if you need a reminder!)



What is the best example we have of a true gift? Explain your answer.

What gift did *Mary* give to God?

What gift did *Joseph* give to God? (Review Days 2 and 3 if you can't remember.)

Why did the *shepherds* give their worship and praise to God? (Check out Day 4 if you need a reminder!)

What about the wise men's gifts showed the truth about who Jesus was and what He came to do? (Look back at Day 5 if you need to!)

Choose two gifts God has given to us through Jesus and explain why they are good gifts. (Hint: Review Days 6–18.)

1. _____

2. _____

What is one gift you can give to God that you hadn't thought of or understood before?
(Review Days 19–24 if you need to!)

Let's look at one more truth you can take with you as you live your life for God's glory, not only at Christmas but also throughout the year.

Read ^{KEY VERSES} *Romans 11: 33 - 36*. What truths about God do these verses teach us?

There is no gift great enough to repay God's overwhelmingly kind and *good gifts* to us.

All we see and know have come from God, the Creator, who made everything and keeps it all going. He gives us the breath in our lungs and the salvation of our souls. We are indebted to this gracious Lord of all. Instead of trying to “pay God back” in some way, which isn't possible anyway, we get to live our lives in gratitude and thankfulness to Him. We can serve Him with our lives and share the good news of the free gift of salvation with others!

What can you do to spread this good news right now and in the coming year?

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As you celebrate Christmas, I hope you find glory and rejoice in the Christmas story—the proof of God's infinite love for us.

Today, thank God for His kindness and grace to you. Ask Him to help you serve Him with your life and always be thankful for the gifts He has given you.



Parent Guide

The Gift in the Manger

Have you ever received a gift that seemed to come with strings attached? Maybe a friend offered to watch your kids for you but then asked you to watch their kids later. You may have attached some strings yourself when you hoped that by giving your neighbor a compliment, they might compliment you back.

A true **gift** is something given freely and willingly with no expectation of payment or reciprocation. Most of us really don't look at gifts this way, though!

Often, the expectations or guilt we feel connected to giving or receiving gifts comes from our own selfishness. We want people to recognize our sacrifice and give back to us with equal effort or care. In this study, we'll learn about the Christmas story by focusing on the true gifts that were given and why those gifts matter for us! Let's start in the book of Luke.

Have you ever felt the expectations of someone who gave you a gift, or have you ever expected something from someone to whom you gave a gift? Share this story with your kids! Hearing an example might help them better understand what this looks like. You can also ask them to think about how the story might have been different if the person giving the gift had the right intentions.

Read *Luke 2:1-7*. What event do these verses tell about?

The birth of Jesus is the whole reason we celebrate Christmas! Maybe you have been told that "Jesus is the reason for the season," and this is the truth! But it can be easy to forget that Jesus was actually the first and greatest Christmas gift ever given. John 3:16 tells us that God sent Jesus to this world willingly because He loves us!

Read KEY VERSES *John 1:14-17*. What do you think these verses are saying?



God’s Word explains to us that Jesus (the Word) became flesh by coming to earth in a physical body as a little baby. In this way, Jesus is the revealing Word who shows us what God is like. Jesus, God’s greatest gift to us, shined the brilliant light of grace and truth into the dark sinfulness of our world.

What is your definition of “grace”?



The Bible uses the word “grace” to mean undeserved and unearned favor. It is kindness shown to someone who does not and could not deserve it. Doesn’t that sound similar to the meaning of “gift”? Most often, we see “grace” used in connection with God’s kindness and goodness in offering us salvation through Jesus! Not only was Jesus the greatest gift ever given, but as John 1:16-17 tells us, it is through Him that we have received countless gifts of grace from God.

God showed us His grace
and His goodness by giving us *Jesus*.

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What gifts from the Christmas story can you think of? List as many as you can below.

Take some time to pray now. Thank God for the gift of Jesus, and ask Him to help you learn more about Him as you work through this study.

*Find today’s JESUS gift sticker and add it to the manger on pages 6–7.

Scripture: John 1:14–17
Key Truth: God showed us His grace and His goodness by giving us Jesus.

Discussion: Give an example of what you would do and think if you were giving someone a gift freely and willingly, without wanting something in return. How can thankfulness for the gift of Jesus help you give willingly to others?

We have talked about so many gifts God has given us through Jesus! Let's review just a bit before we continue looking at more of the many gifts God has given to us.

Fill in the gifts of God from Days 6-13.

















Now, let's continue learning about the gifts God has graciously showered upon us.

Read *Hebrews 1:1-2*. What has God done according to this passage?

In this study, we have looked at several passages of Scripture that were messages God gave His people through prophets He sent to them. These prophets served God and the people for a time, but they were pointing God's people to an even better Word to come. Verse 2 tells us that now God has spoken to us through His Son, Jesus!

While Jesus was on the earth, He preached the truth to all who would listen. He also showed them who God is and what He is like by the miracles and mighty works He performed. Jesus taught His disciples the truth and then sent them out to teach others. But this is not all! After Jesus went back to heaven to be with the Father, He sent the Holy Spirit to be our Helper as we seek to live for Him.

Read KEY VERSE *John 17:17*. What did Jesus pray that God would do?

Before Jesus went to the cross to die for our sin, He prayed for us. That's right! Jesus prayed that God would preserve and help all believers. But then Jesus also prayed that we would be sanctified through the truth—God's Word.

Sanctification is a process that begins in us as soon as we place our faith in Jesus for salvation! We are sanctified as we learn the truth about God and become more like Jesus. This change continues to happen throughout our whole lives as we follow Jesus and seek to do His will. God's true Word is where we learn how to grow and become more like Him!

God has given us *His Word* to help us grow and become more like Jesus.

Take some time to read all the way down to the end of John 17. The rest of this passage talks about some of the ways Jesus prayed for believers to grow. It is a beautiful prayer showing the heart of Jesus for us and is a great passage to study!

Read *2 Timothy 3:16-17*. What do these verses say about God's Word?

ALL Scripture is valuable and important in our growth! There is not one verse in the Bible that is unimportant or unnecessary. **God's Word** is an extremely valuable gift because it shows us who God is and why He matters to us.

What can you do to use and value this gift more?

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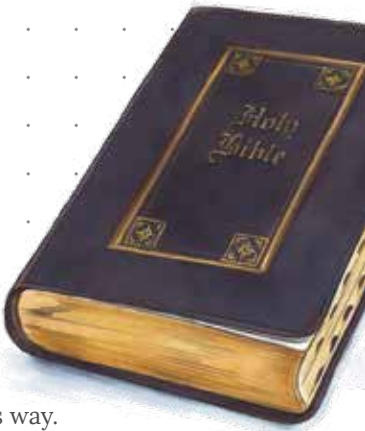
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Today, ask God to help you remember that the Bible is one of His gifts to you. Thank Him for revealing Himself to you in this way.

*Find today's HIS WORD gift sticker and add it to the manger on pages 6-7.

Scripture: John 17:17
Key Truth: God has given us His Word to help us grow and become more like Jesus.

Discussion: How does God's Word help us grow? Think of an area you would like to grow in. What is a Bible verse that you could memorize to help you grow in that area?

Merry Christmas! You have faithfully worked through this study, and now it's time to celebrate all the knowledge you have gained and truth you have learned. Before you finish this study, though, let's review the gifts we discovered in the Christmas story!

Explain in your own words what a gift is.



What is the best example we have of a true gift? Explain your answer.

What gift did *Mary* give to God?

What gift did *Joseph* give to God?

Why did the *shepherds* give their worship and praise to God?

What about the wise men's gifts showed the truth about who Jesus was and what He came to do?

Choose two gifts God has given to us and explain why they are good gifts.

1.

2.

What is one gift you can give to God that you hadn't thought of or understood before?

» _____

Let's look at one more truth you can take with you as you live your life for God's glory, not only at Christmas but also throughout the year.

Read ^{KEY VERSES} » *Romans 11:33-36*. What truths about God do these verses teach us?

There is no gift great enough to repay God's overwhelmingly kind and *good gifts* to us.

All we see and know have come from God, the Creator, who made everything and keeps it all going. He gives us the breath in our lungs and the salvation of our souls. We are indebted to this gracious Lord of all. Instead of trying to "pay God back" in some way, which isn't possible anyway, we get to live our lives in gratitude and thankfulness to Him. We can serve Him with our lives and share the good news of the free gift of salvation with others!

What can you do to spread this good news right now and in the coming year?

As you celebrate Christmas, I hope you find glory and rejoice in the Christmas story—the proof of God's infinite love for us.

Today, thank God for His kindness and grace to you. Ask Him to help you serve Him with your life and always be thankful for the gifts He has given you.



Consider saving these Bible studies or asking your children to write their takeaways on a separate piece of paper. Next year, or a few months from now, pull them out to remember what you have learned and see how you have grown because of it.

Scripture: Romans 11:33-36
Key Truth: There is no gift great enough to repay God's overwhelmingly kind and good gifts to us.

Discussion: What is the most important part of Christmas? How can you live today in a way that shows God how thankful you are for the gift of Jesus?



GIFTS ^{AT} _{THE} MANGER

For most of us, gifts are a big part of celebrating Christmas. While giving and receiving gifts is fun and exciting, it also reminds us of the grace and kindness of God shown to us in the Christmas story.

In *Gifts at the Manger*, you will learn about the **meaning behind the gifts** in the story of Jesus' birth as well as the beauty of the gifts we receive through faith in Jesus! Then, you'll learn how to respond to these wonderful gifts from God. Through Jesus, we receive the ability to give gifts as well!

