

Christmas Message

Gift - Gospel Presentation

Checklist:

- Have a "gift" as a prop.
- Wrapping paper, bows, tape, etc. from Human Gift Wrapping Contest

Human Gift Wrapping Contest

Have two teams of 2-5 people each (or have everyone participate in teams of 2-5). Each team has to wrap 1 or their teammates as a Christmas present. Give the teams plenty of wrapping paper, bows, tape, etc.

Tell them it is a contest and they will be judged based on skill, creativity, etc. Give them maybe 5 minutes. Then have fun judging and announcing the "winner" (or "winners") based on skill, creativity, originality, use of red and green, or whatever other criteria.

After, have everyone sit back down...

Gifts

Use a gift prop throughout the rest of the lesson...

Ask:

- Who here likes gifts?
- What's one of the best gifts you've ever gotten from your family or a friend?
- Do you guys deserve the gifts you get? Why?

Jesus' Gift

Say:

- One of the best - if not the best - gifts of all time is the one Jesus offers.
- What is that?...
- A relationship with God, salvation from sin, and eternal life forever in heaven.
- Romans 6:23 says "the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

- At Christmas, we celebrate Jesus' birth.
- The reason He was born was to come and teach us the truth about God and to pay for sin by His death on a cross.

Ask: How does the gift Jesus offers compare to the other ones we talked about earlier?

Say:

- We don't deserve it.
- We don't earn it.
- It's a free gift for all who believe...

The Good News about the Gift

Say:

- Let's take a look at what the Bible says about the huge and awesome gift...
- First of all, there is a need for the gift...
 - Romans 3:23 says that "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."
 - So, we are all sinful. We all have done wrong.
 - Romans 6:23 says that "the wages of sin is death."
 - Because of sin, we deserve death. And not just death here on earth, but death and suffering in hell.
 - That's why we need the free gift that Jesus offers.
- Thankfully, the whole verse of Romans 6:23 says: "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."
- How did Jesus pay for this gift?...
- 1 Peter 2:24 says: "He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed."

Receiving the Gift

Say:

- Someone might offer you a gift, but then you need to take it - to receive it.
- So, how do we receive the gift that Jesus gives?...
 - John 3:16 says: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."
 - Whoever believes in Jesus - and His death on the cross to pay for sin - will not receive what they deserve (death), but will receive the free gift of eternal life.

Ask: Think about the gifts you have been given in your life. Do you earn those gifts?

Say:

- The gift of eternal life through Jesus is not something we earn.
 - We can't earn it. - We can't be good enough.
 - And we can't be too bad to receive it.
 - It doesn't depend on our works, but on what Jesus has done...
 - Ephesians 2:8-9 says: "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."

- Romans 10:9-10 says: “if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.”

Invitation

Give an opportunity for teens who have believed in Jesus as Savior and Lord for the first time today to pray to thank Jesus and commit to Him, with His help, as their Lord. (Lead them through a prayer they can pray silently. And, perhaps have them quietly raise their hand if they believed for the first time today.)

Closing

Say:

- For those who already have received Jesus' gift...
- Keep Him at the heart of your celebration at Christmas.
- Thank Him for the gift He gives.

- Live your life in gratitude for the gift God has given.
- Romans 12:1 says that in view of God's mercy, we should offer our bodies as living sacrifices.

- And share Jesus' gift with others.

Show of hands: Who's ever been excited to show others a gift you received?

Ask: What are ways we can help share the gift of Jesus with others?

Say:

- For those who believed in Him as your Savior and Lord for the first time tonight, talk to me or another leader or your parents so we can talk more about it and how you can grow!
- If you have questions about Jesus or how to be saved, please talk to one of us, too!

Closing Prayer

(Be sure to follow up with teens who may have accepted Jesus.)

All Scripture References are from the English Standard Version (unless noted otherwise).

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