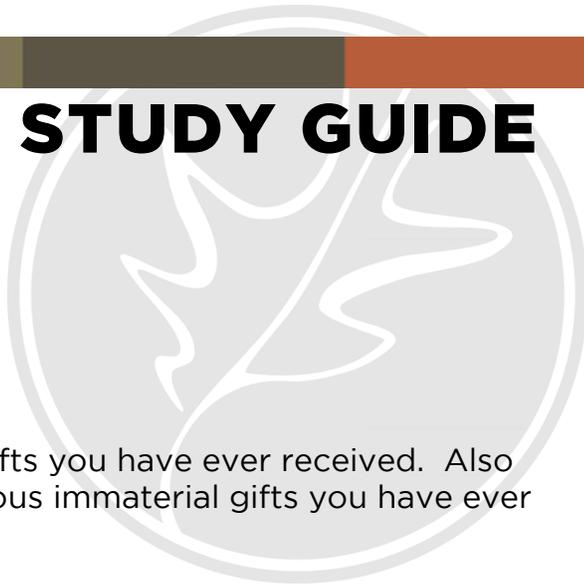


STUDY GUIDE



TIS THE SEASON 12.03.2017

[set up]

Share about one of the most generous (material) gifts you have ever received. Also share about one of the most meaningful and generous immaterial gifts you have ever received. Which one meant more?

[digging deeper]

This week we looked at the most well-known Bible verse—**John 3:16**. Go ahead and turn to it and read it.

- Do you remember the first time you heard or read this verse?
- Do you have it memorized (take a shot at it if not).
- What words stand out most in this verse to you and why?
- Why do you think this verse is so popular?
- What is the danger of this verse being so familiar?
- How does this verse reflect the extravagant generosity of God, and why is that good to remember at Christmas?
- When you think of God's love, how is the reference to the love of God made here different than the love that typically comes to people's mind? How does Luke 6:32-35 help us clarify the comparison?

Jesus was the first Christmas gift. Why was it necessary to give His Son? And how does that make John 3:17 possible?

Write down a list of all the means you have heard of regarding how a person can be made right with God, to be forgiven, to have eternal life.

Believing in Christ is the only way to not perish (hell) but to have eternal life (heaven). How does Ephesians 2:8-9 help give us a deeper understanding of this belief?

Why is it tremendously hopeful that "whoever" believes will have eternal life? Who does that give you hope for?

[living it out]

John 3:16 speaks of God's extravagant generosity to us. Christ was the best gift to mankind, yet this gift was immaterial in nature. To celebrate the birth of Christ, we typically give material gifts. In our desire to increase our understanding and ability to be generous with immaterial gifts (time, compassion, forgiveness, relationship, wisdom, encouragement, etc.), what specific generous immaterial gift can you give this Christmas to:

- Family members? _____

- A church family member? _____

- A Neighbor? _____

Close your time in prayer using John 3:16 as a prayer guide/template. (God, thank you for your love... thank you for giving your Son...) Also pray for God to give you the insight and courage to follow up as you increase your generosity and grow in the practice of giving immaterial gifts.