



# MISSION: CHRISTMAS 4

## Family Devotional/Adult & Teen Discussion Guide

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DECEMBER 24, 2017

**1. PRIMARY STATEMENT:** *“Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased.”* Of all the reasons to celebrate Christmas, this may be the most profound. After thousands of years of being at odds with the Creator because of sin, Jesus’ birth announced wonderful news - goodwill toward humankind!

## 2. BIBLE VERSE

Without Jesus, we would all be destined for God’s wrath.

**John 3:36 [VOICE]** *“Those who believe in the Son (Jesus) will bask in eternal life, but those who disobey the Son will never experience life. They will know only God’s lingering wrath.”*

**Revelation 20:12-15 [ESV]** *“And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done...  
15 And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”*

**Q.** Take a minute to consider what your fate would be like if Jesus had never come to earth. What feelings does that thought stir up? - Fear, Gratitude, Wonder?

**Q.** Consider how very real and intense God’s wrath is toward sin. How does that change your outlook on the unsaved people in your life?



## 4. PRAYER FOCUS

## 3. DISCUSSION

Jesus’ sacrifice paid the price for our sin, and made a way for us to reconnect with a loving God the way He intended from the beginning.

**1 John 2:2 [NLT]** *“He himself (Jesus) is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of all the world.”*

**Hebrews 10:22 [NLT]** *“Let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him. For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ’s blood to make us clean...”*

**Q.** Think about the price Jesus paid so you could have access to God’s presence. Do you sometimes take that access for granted? What are some examples?

**Q.** What are some ways you could treat that access as more of a privilege and less of an entitlement?

Take a few minutes as a family and thank God for paying the price so you could be saved. Ask the Holy Spirit to develop gratitude and devotion in your heart, and to help you cherish the access you’ve been given to God the Father.



# GOD'S GIFTS

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DECEMBER 24, 2017

### 1. POWER VERSE: James 1:17 *"Every good and perfect gift is from above."*

**Watts Up: "God's Gifts are the Best Gifts!"**

### 2. DISCUSSION:

Q. If you had all the money in the world, what would be the gift that you would give your best friend? (A new car, an ipad, video game.)

Q. Now, if you had all the money in the world, what would be the best gift you would give someone that absolutely hates you? (Maybe some rotten meat? A bucket full of slimy worms?)

Well, that might be what someone would give their enemy, but GOD gave the PERFECT gift to all of us—even before we loved Him.

We were enemies of God before we accepted Him in our hearts. Yet, God gave His one and only Son, Jesus. The Bible says that while we were still sinners, (while we still not living for God,) Christ came for us to save us and to take away our sin! Now, THAT'S one perfect, undeserved gift!

Q. What are some of the best gifts you have ever received? Are you still as excited about them today?

God's gifts make our whole life better, and help us to be a blessing to others!

### 3. REVIEW:

John 3:16 *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."*



Let's review the AWESOME gifts from God we have been studying the past 4 weeks:

**GRACE:** God gives us His grace, His mercy and His forgiveness through giving us His Son, Jesus.

**JOY:** Be quick to smile, laugh a lot and no matter what happens, remember that **GOD GIVES JOY TO EVERYONE!**

**PEACE:** Ask God for His peace! He'll give you all the peace you need to help you through whatever comes your way!

**WISDOM:** Wisdom comes from God. We can use it to make good decisions, and find God's perfect plan for our lives!

Think about God's gifts. Are you excited to have them everyday?



### 4. PRAYER FOCUS

**Pray together and thank God for His many gifts. Not only did God send His Son, Jesus but He sent the Holy Spirit that brings us Grace, Joy, Peace, Wisdom, and so much more.**