

DECEMBER 15, 2019

GIVE MORE

*Hypothetical: What would happen if this were the _____
_____?*

The secret to Christmas _____ is the _____.

John 1:1-18 (emphasis: v. 14); 1 John 1:1-4; John 10:10; Matt. 1:21-23

The Incarnation reveals:

1. That God took the most drastic initiative to personally _____ the _____. Phil. 2:5-11; John 6:35-69; Rom. 5:6-11; Luke 15
2. That God scandalously _____ - _____ so that we could be made whole. Phil. 2:6-8; John 10:17-19; Eph. 1:3-10; Isaiah 53
3. That God will not ask us to give in a way that he _____. Luke 9:23-25; Heb. 4:12-15; 1 John 4:7-21

If you want this to be the first Christmas that transcends December, give more:

1. _____ to _____ asking God to transform your heart and renew your mind. Rom. 12:1-2; Joel 2:12-13; Psalm 51

Lord, increase my capacity and willingness to give more intentionally to the people in my life.

Lord, open my eyes to the opportunities that abound around me.

Lord, help me to pace myself and be fully present with whomever I'm with.

Lord, grant me compassion for those who I am instinctively dismissive of.

Lord, what do you want me to give?

Lord, make me more and more like you.

2. _____ to cultivating your relationship with _____.
Luke 9:23-25; Matt. 11:28-30; Phil. 3:7-16

3. Of your _____ away to _____ mission. Matt. 16:24-26; Matt. 5-7; Matt. 28:18-20; 1 Cor. 5:14-6:1; John 20

Talking through the message during the week can really help clarify the things that God is teaching you and let others learn from your experiences. Get with someone this week and talk about your answers to the following questions:

What thought stood out most in the message to you?

Go back to the hypothetical question: "What would happen if this were the last Christmas?" Agree or disagree that the majority of what would change would be our bank accounts, busyness, and stress (if you haven't already, go back and listen to Britt's message from last week)? What does that say about what Christmas has largely devolved into?

Compare and contrast the ideas of Christmas being about celebrating Jesus' birth to reflecting and responding to the Incarnation, that God gave up everything to reconcile us. What happens when our perspective widens toward the latter?

Spend time discussing what the Incarnation reveals. How do these truths speak to the uniqueness of Christ?

Spend time discussing the final three encouragements to GIVE MORE. How do these things bring meaning and purpose to not only Christmas, but life with Christ?

From adventconspiracy.org:

SESSION 3: GIVE MORE

READ: John 1:1-14; John 3:16-17

REFLECTION: Immanuel means God with us. From the very beginning, relationships have mattered to God. What would it look like this week for you to focus less on the presents and more on giving your time and presence? "All the prophecies, all the promises, came down to one relational gift. The Father gave the most personal gift ever — his Son."

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GIVE MORE

Hypothetical: What would happen if this were the LAST CHRISTMAS?

The secret to Christmas LIFE is the INCARNATION.

John 1:1-18 (emphasis: v. 14); 1 John 1:1-4; John 10:10; Matt. 1:21-23

The Incarnation reveals:

1. That God took the most drastic initiative to personally **CROSS** the **DIVIDE**. Phil. 2:5-11; John 6:35-69; Rom. 5:6-11; Luke 15
2. That God scandalously **SELF-EMPTIED** so that we could be made whole. Phil. 2:6-8; John 10:17-19; Eph. 1:3-10; Isaiah 53
3. That God will not ask us to give in a way that he **HASN'T**. Luke 9:23-25; Heb. 4:12-15; 1 John 4:7-21

If you want this to be the first Christmas that transcends December, give more:

1. **TIME** to **DAILY** asking God to transform your heart and renew your mind. Rom. 12:1-2; Joel 2:12-13; Psalm 51

Lord, increase my capacity and willingness to give more intentionally to the people in my life.

Lord, open my eyes to the opportunities that abound around me.

Lord, help me to pace myself and be fully present with whomever I'm with.

Lord, grant me compassion for those who I am instinctively dismissive of.

Lord, what do you want me to give?

Lord, make me more and more like you.

2. **ATTENTION** to cultivating your relationship with **CHRIST**.

Luke 9:23-25; Matt. 11:28-30; Phil. 3:7-16

3. Of your **LIFE** away to **HIS** mission. Matt. 16:24-26; Matt. 5-7; Matt. 28:18-20; 1 Cor. 5:14-6:1; John 20

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