



Connecting Friends Around an Open Bible

Issue # 9

Christmas

Opening Prayer

Dear God, we have come to worship You. Help us to remember that you are here with us. May we pray to You in faith, sing your praise with gratitude, and listen to your word with eagerness, through Christ our Lord. Amen

Last Issue Recap **How did YOU apply the last issue's lesson to your life?**

The 'silly' season is upon us. Shopping malls are filled with people buying gifts for Christmas, cheesy Christmas carols are blaring out of speakers everywhere. Holidays are starting and plans to spend time together as family are all coming together.

ChatPoint #1

- What do you like most about Christmas time?
- How conscious are you of Jesus during the Christmas season?



While all the Christmas craziness is going on, it is so easy to miss the point of it all. Christmas is not about Santa, or giving gifts or spending time with loved ones. It is and should always be about Jesus, God who came to be with us.

READ

Hebrews 4:1-13

ChatPoint #2

- What words would you use to describe the Wise Men (Magi) in this passage?
- Why do you think they brought gifts to baby Jesus?
- Where these gifts expensive or not?
- What can we learn from their example?

"Christmas is based on an exchange of gifts, the gift of God to man - His unspeakable gift of His Son, and the gift of man to God - when we present our bodies a living sacrifice."

Vance Havner

One of the main reasons gifts are given at Christmas time is as a result of the gifts the wise men brought Jesus. But ultimately Christmas is really the story of one great gift. Christmas is really about a big present that God gave the world about 2000 years ago - Jesus! One of the most famous Bible verses, John 3:16, says: *'God loved the world so much, that he gave his one and only Son, so that whoever believes in him may not be lost but have eternal life.'*

READ

Romans 12:1-2

Key Focus

Rom 12:1 "So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life - your sleeping, eating, going-to-work and walking-around life and place it before God as an offering.

ChatPoint #3

1. What stands out for you in this passage?
2. What do you think the main point is?
3. What would it look like if Christians applied this principle or lesson to their lives today?
4. What is Jesus telling you personally as you reflect on this lesson?
5. In what ways can you make your life a gift to Jesus in response to His great gift to us?
6. How can I apply this lesson to my life this week?

Prayer Requests

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Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, we are sorry for the times we have made Christmas about anything other than you. Help us this year to focus more on you and appreciate the gift You are to us. May we learn to give the gift of ourselves to You this year. Amen

Personal Reflection

To be completed at home

- Christmas is not about the things we have made it to be.
- It is all about Jesus and celebrating the gift of God coming to be with us.
- Perhaps the best gift we can give this Christmas, is the gift of our lives given freely to God.

Who will facilitate the next #CCC?

Venue:
Date & Time: