

The Gift That Keeps on Giving

Theme

In Jesus, we receive the right to become children of God.

Object

A gift you received for Christmas

Scripture

Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God- children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. John 1:12-13 (NIV)

This tie I am wearing was one of my Christmas gifts. I really do like it. Did you receive a lot of gifts for Christmas? I'm sure that you did. Of all of the gifts that you received for Christmas, what was the very best one? What was your favorite? (Give the children an opportunity to tell you about their favorite gift.)

You know, there is one thing that I have learned about Christmas gifts. No matter how much you enjoy receiving them, they just don't last. Some of you may have received new clothes. They look nice and you enjoy wearing them, but sooner or later, they wear out, go out of style, or you outgrow them. I am sure that many of you received toys. You really enjoy the toys, but eventually, they either get broken or you get tired of playing with them. Perhaps you got some candy. Well, when you eat it, it is gone. Except for what you wind up wearing around your waist.

There is one Christmas gift that is different. It never wears out. It never goes out of style. You will never become tired of it. It is like the Energizer Bunny -- it is a gift that keeps on giving year, after year, after year. Do you know what that gift is? It is the true gift that Christmas is all about. It is God's gift to us. His Son, Jesus.

The Bible tells us that all who receive Jesus and believe in his name become the children of God! When we become the children of God, we have all of the rights and privileges of being His child. He will love us, protect us, and provide everything that we need. The best part is that it never ends. The Bible says that "kindness and love will be with us every day of our life, and we will live forever in the house of the LORD." (Psalm 23:6 paraphrased)

I enjoy giving and receiving gifts at Christmas, but I think it is important for us to remember that the greatest gift of all was God's gift to us. It is the gift that keeps on giving!

Dear Father, we thank you for loving us so much that you gave your Son so that we too could become your children. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Sermon Title: "The Gift that Keeps on Giving"

Scripture Reading: John 1:12-13

GIFT GAME #1:

This game is played like musical chairs, but the children remain seated in a circle and pass the gift around until the music stops. The child with the gift is then out and one chair will be eliminated as well and the game continues. Children might enjoy playing both Gift Games with the changes made.

GIFT GAME #2:

This game is also played like musical chairs except a decorated GIFT box is placed on a chair and the music plays as children walk from chair to chair. The child who is at the chair with the gift on it when the music stops is out of the game and one chair is removed. The gift box is placed on another chair and the game continues.

GIFT EXCHANGE:

The teacher can either bring small gifts for the children to play the "White Elephant" gift exchange game, or the teacher can call the children during the week and tell them to bring a toy or something from home to exchange during Sunday School this week. Play the White Elephant game with the children and tell them that they all have "gifts that keep on giving" and that can lead into the Bible lesson today. (Basic rules for the White Elephant game are: The gifts are placed in a central location, and the children draw numbers to determine in what order they will take turns selecting a gift. The first person opens a wrapped gift and the turn ends. On subsequent turns, each person opens a new present and gets the choice to keep that present or to "steal" another person's unwrapped gift. When a person's gift is stolen, they swap gifts with the person who is stealing their gift. The game is over when the last person has taken their turn.)

GIFT WRAP:

Let children wrap an empty box and add a pretty bow or ribbons to the gift. Give each child a card to decorate and write JESUS IS THE BEST GIFT, and attach to the gift.

CANDY CANE GIFT:

Children can glue an "upside down" candy cane to be a "J" on a piece of heavy card stock. Decorate and color the card and write "J IS FOR JESUS - THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING!" on the card. Let the children enjoy eating a candy cane for themselves during class as well!

J is for JESUS ART:

Let children draw a large "J" on a large piece of paper. Spread glue inside the big letter "J" and sprinkle glitter or cereal on the J. With colored markers, write THANK YOU JESUS FOR LOVING ME SO MUCH!

JESUS CHAIN:

Give the children strips of construction paper. On each strip of paper, children can write THANK YOU JESUS, or J IS FOR JESUS, or JESUS LOVES ME, and other ideas and words from our lesson today. Children can then make a JESUS CHAIN with loops inside other loops and see how long their Christmas chain can be. Hang the chain around a window or lay it out down the middle of the table.

Song: "Jesus Loves Me"

Words and Music (pdf)

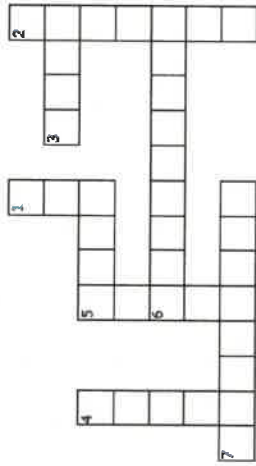
MP3 Accompaniment Track

Song: "The Greatest Gift of All"

Words and Music (pdf)

MP3 Accompaniment Track

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- The word or words by which a person is known
- A title used for Jesus in the Gospel of John (John 1:14)
- To know someone because you have seen them before
- Boys and girls from the time of birth until they are adults

FLESH
BELIEVE

CHILDREN
GOD

WORLD
RECOGNIZE

WORD
NAME

DOWN

- The One who created the universe
- To think that something is true
- The soft part of the body of a person which is between the skin and the bones
- The earth with its inhabitants

Children's Worship Bulletin

The Gift that Keeps on Giving

John 1:10-18

Word Search

M Q M W C P F E X C E B E D Y
W E T V V Y N J V C P Z F C B
X O W N W V L Z L H G W A H E
U E R O Q M H E L R P M J I L
U J H D R D Y K R I C K M L I
J P R T O L N I S S X I C D E
F L F G T X D R M T H U Y R V
Q X L U A D C F A T Q J K E E
Y R E C E I V E U X Z T O N G
L D S J E W G R A C E N N B R
X N H D E Q T J E S U S J G A
Y Z A M D W E L L I N G L L O
W B D M N E X R W H A C L O L
B Q G E E V W H X F C R B R L
T S B J L B L E S S I N G Y O

CHILDREN
GRACE
GLORY

BELIEVE
BLESSING
CHRIST

DWELLING
JESUS
FLESH

TRUTH
WORD
WORLD

RECEIVE
GOD
NAME



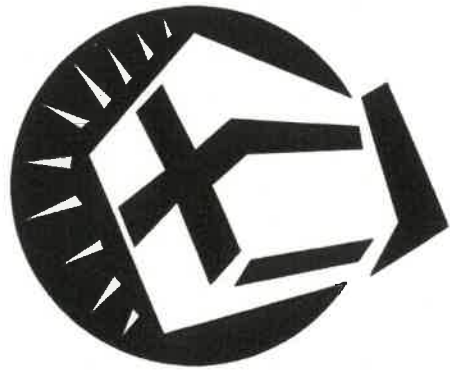
Decoder Puzzle

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.

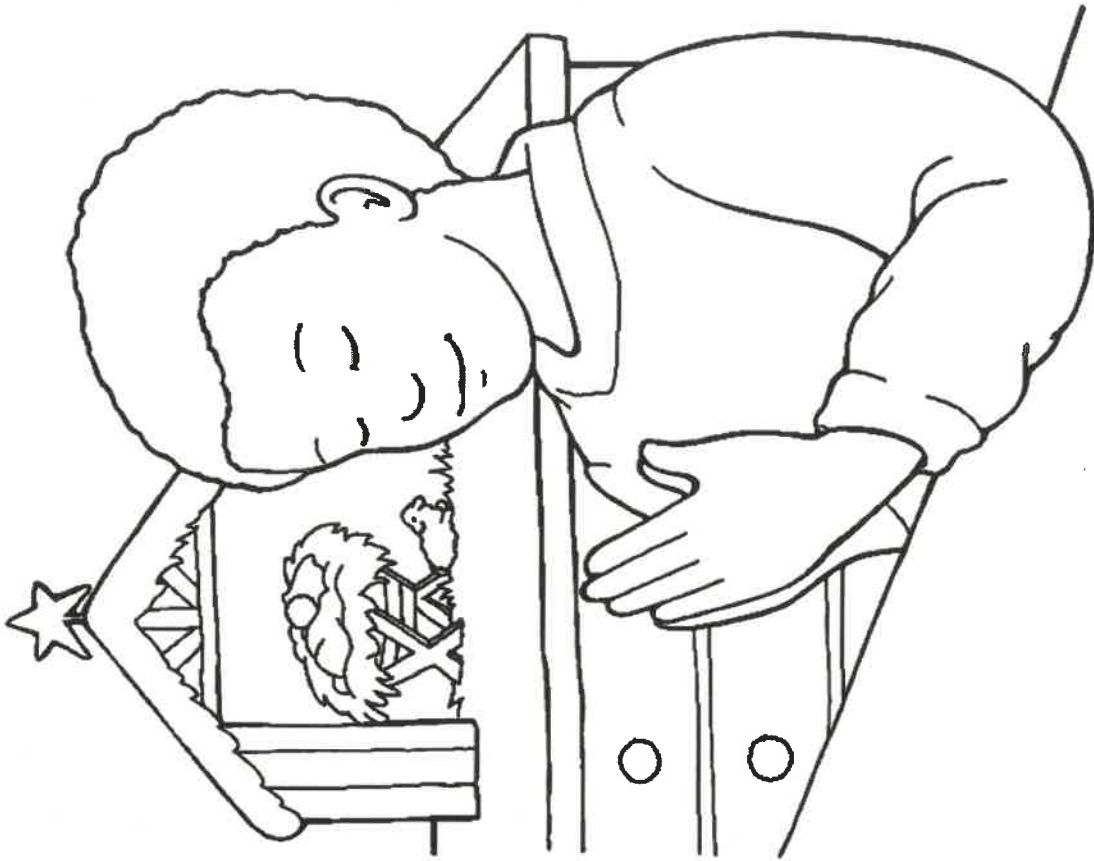
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
N	G	X	A	M	Y	Q	C	F	K	S	D	W	E	L	T	J	V	H	Z	I	P	O	B	U	R

- 2-26-4-8-14 _____
- 8-19-21-15-12-26-14-1 _____
- 24-14-15-21-14-18-14 _____
- 1-4-5-14 _____
- 26-14-8-14-21-18-14 _____
- 2-15-23-26-6 _____
- 16-26-25-16-19 _____
- 13-23-26-16-12 _____
- 9-15-14-11-19 _____
- 13-23-26-12 _____

WORLD	BELIEVE	RECEIVE	TRUTH	CHILDREN
FLESH	NAME	WORD	GLORY	GRACE



Coloring Page



Thank you, God, for Jesus.



The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.