



Your story matters.



MYRC.CHURCH



"JOY TO THE WORLD"

Pastor Tom Lundeen

MESSAGE NOTES

To all people...for all people...for _____ everywhere... (note Luke 2:10, 30-32a)

God doesn't play or have _____.

Christmas tells us:

1. God is Generous with His _____

Don't confuse _____ with _____.

God isn't just good to people who are _____ (note Matthew 5:45b; Psalm 145:9a).

_____ good in your life is a gift from God (note James 1:17).

_____ doesn't help you when you or someone you love gets cancer, or another awful disease seemingly without cause; or you are abused or the victim of some crime...

If you will slow down and look around you, you'll see more things each day than you ever _____ of God's goodness to you...

And Jesus is the _____ goodness of God (note Titus 3:4).

2. God is _____ with His Love (note Psalm 145:9; 42:8a)

God isn't _____ with His love.

...unconditional love doesn't mean unconditional _____.

God accepts us right where we are, but He loves us too much to let us _____ where we are.

Note Romans 3:10-12; James 2:10

The greatest gift we need is a _____ (note John 3:16).

Jesus came at Christmas to _____ for you (note John 15:13).

3. God is Unwavering with His _____

Note Luke 2:25-31

Jesus has one mission—to _____ lost people by sacrificing His life for us (note 1 Timothy 2:6a).

Note John 1:29

He became our _____, He took our place, and He died the death we should have died (note 1 Corinthians 5:7c).

Christmas is only meaningful in the _____ of the cross (note 2 Corinthians 5:15).

4. God's _____ of Eternal Life is for Anyone

The reality is, the human mortality rate is _____.

One day your _____ will stop, but that's not the end of you.

You are far more _____ to God than that.

Note John 1:12 (believe and _____)

Note Acts 10:35; 2:21

Christmas matters because:

- _____ Christmas and not receiving the #1 gift God has given you is to miss the whole point of Christmas.
- God's gift of _____, transformation, new life, and eternal life is for anyone.
- It's for you this Christmas.

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey!

Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital or hard copy).*

**[MyRC.link/connect](https://myrc.link/connect) or text riverside to 94000*



SMALL GROUP
guide on the back



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Icebreaker: Would you rather receive a nice-but-regifted present or a badly-made (yet heartfelt) homemade present?

1. Pastor Tom told us that “God doesn’t play or have favorites.” ([Luke 2:10, 30-32a](#); [Acts 10:34-35](#)) How do you understand this truth in your life?
2. Pastor Tom talked about God’s generous goodness and reminded us not to “confuse Jesus with Santa. God isn’t just good to people who are good.” Read [Matthew 5:45b](#), and [James 1:17](#). List at least three specific good things in your life you know God has given you.
3. Pastor Tom taught us that “God is lavish in His love”, but, “...unconditional love doesn’t mean unconditional approval.” How have you experienced God accepting you where you are at, but loving you so much that He doesn’t let you stay there?
4. Jesus’ mission was clear right from the start. Read [Luke 2:25-31](#), [1 Timothy 2:6a](#); [John 1:29](#), and [1 Corinthians 5:7c, 15](#). Pastor Tom concluded that “Christmas is only meaningful in the shadow of the cross.” How does Jesus’ gift of salvation make Christmas meaningful to you?
5. “God’s gift of forgiveness, transformation, new life, and eternal life is for anyone.” Have you accepted this truth for yourself in saying your own ‘YES!’? If not, what is keeping you from doing so?
6. Take time to pray together, thanking God for His #1 gift of Jesus for all who believe and receive Him ([John 1:12](#), [Acts 2:21](#)).

Day One: [Matthew 1 & 2](#)

Day Two: [Luke 1 & 2:1-40](#)

PERSONAL GUIDE



"JOY TO THE WORLD"

Pastor Tom Lundeen

MESSAGE NOTES

To all people...for all people...for everyone everywhere... (note Luke 2:10, 30-32a)

God doesn't play or have favorites.

Christmas tells us:

1. God is Generous with His Goodness

Don't confuse Jesus with Santa.

God isn't just good to people who are good (note Matthew 5:45b; Psalms 145:9a).

Everything good in your life is a gift from God (note James 1:17).

Karma doesn't help you when you or someone you love gets cancer, or another awful disease seemingly without cause; or you are abused or the victim of some crime...

If you will slow down and look around you, you'll see more things each day than you ever imagined of God's goodness to you...

And Jesus is the ultimate goodness of God (note Titus 3:4).

2. God is Lavish with His Love (note Psalms 145:9; 42:8a)

God isn't stingy with His love.

...unconditional love doesn't mean unconditional approval.

God accepts us right where we are, but He loves us too much to let us stay where we are.

Note Romans 3:10-12; James 2:10

The greatest gift we need is a Savior (note John 3:16).

Jesus came at Christmas to die for you (note John 15:13).

3. God is Unwavering with His Sacrifice

Note Luke 2:25-31

Jesus has one mission—to rescue lost people by sacrificing His life for us (note 1 Timothy 2:6a).

Note John 1:29

He became our substitute. He took our place, and He died the death we should have died (note 1 Corinthians 5:7c).

Christmas is only meaningful in the shadow of the cross (note 2 Corinthians 5:15).

4. God's Gift of Eternal Life is for Anyone

The reality is, the human mortality rate is 100%.

One day your heart will stop, but that's not the end of you.

You are far more valuable to God than that.

Note John 1:12 (*believe and receive*)

Note Acts 10:35; 2:21

Christmas matters because:

- Celebrating Christmas and not receiving the #1 gift God has given you is to miss the whole point of Christmas.
- God's gift of forgiveness, transformation, new life, and eternal life is for anyone.
- It's for you this Christmas.

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey!

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