

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

What is your favorite holiday treat?

- **1.** Read **John 3:16** and **Romans 5:8**. What is it about God's big Christmas gift that makes it so loving?
- **2.** Pastor Tom said, "Most people get their ID from 3 things (one or more): work, relationships or things." What does it mean to be a new creation in Christ? (See **2 Corinthians 5:17**)
- **3.** What evidence in your life affirms you are a new creation in Christ? (See John 8:31-32; Romans 12:2)
- **4.** What new desires and capacity has God given you to live out your new life through the power of the Holy Spirit and how are you acting on them?
- **5.** Have you trusted in God's big gift for you? If so, how does/ should this encourage you to be outward focused and share it with others? If not, what's holding you back?

PERSONAL GUIDE

This Personal Guide has been adapted from Professor Grant Horner's Bible Reading System.

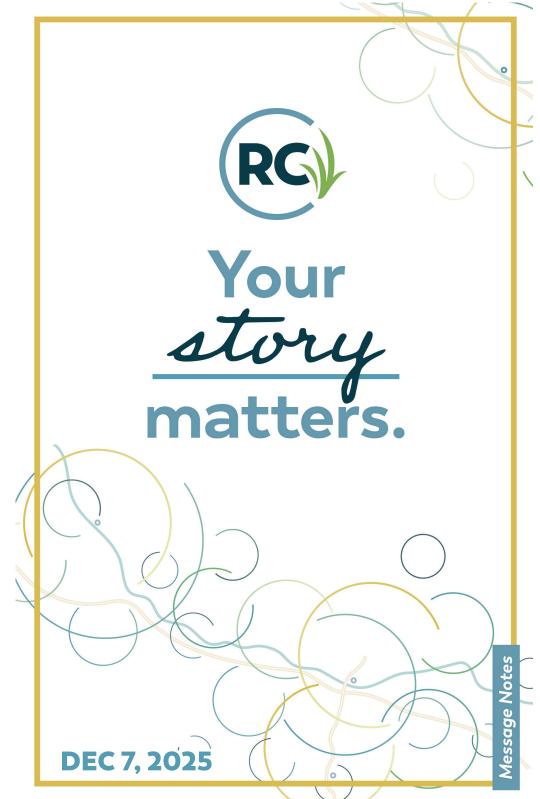
Day One: Luke 11; Psalm 144

Day Two: Numbers 27; Proverbs 20

Day Three: Hebrews 1; 2 Kings 18

Day Four: 1 Timothy 6; Ezekiel 21

Day Five: Job 20; Acts 4





nurnose of Christmas is (John 3:16)



Merry and Bright: Celebrating the Greatest Gift of Christmas "Because the Gift Goes On and On" Pastor Tom Lundeen | Dec 7, 2025

The purpose of Christmas is (John 3:16).
Christmas starts with
God's gift was the, most expensive, and greatest gift you
can ever receive (note Romans 5:8; 8:32).
When you say '!' to Jesus as Lord, you can also receive all other gifts He wants to give you. Reality is we don't have anything to give until we've received God's Christmas gift.
1. A New
2024 = million ID theft complaints, \$ billion financial losses. Most people get their ID from 3 things (one or more):
A this is what we, not who we are. B this is not who we are, but who we're to. C
Remember, never base your worth/status/ID on something you can
The only thing that cannot be taken from you is God's love for you (note 2 Corinthians 5:17).
Jesus called this being again. It's a life
It does mean you're no longer by sin, struggles, and your past.

When you say 'YES!' to Jesus, you are not your sin,, weakness, or illness. Your isn't your character (note John 8:31-32; Romans 12:2).
2. A New
Willpower is Note Romans 5:5
He isn't just near us, with us, or working on us; but He is us and working us (note Philippians 2:13).
We know what we want to be about our lives in 2026.
is rarely the issue.
Power//ability is the issue.
God not only gives us
He also gives us the capacity//strength to experience a new life through the power of the Holy Spirit. It's about, not trying harder.

Tell us about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey! App: Message Notes/Connect Card Or: MYRC.LINK/CONNECT

How can this Christmas actually be "merry and bright"?

• Christmas means that God gave His Son for you.

• You need to _____ this gift.

• Note 2 Timothy 1:7





Message Notes

Celebrating the Greatest Gift of Christmas

"Because the Gift Goes On and On" Pastor Tom Lundeen | Dec 7, 2025

The whole purpose of Christmas is (John 3:16).

Christmas starts with love.

God's gift was the first, most expensive, and greatest gift you can ever receive (note Romans 5:8; 8:32).

When you say 'YES!' to Jesus as Lord, you can also receive all other gifts He wants to give you.

Reality is we don't have anything to give until we've received God's big Christmas gift.

A New Status

2024 = 1.1 million ID theft complaints, \$12.7 billion financial losses. Most people get their ID from 3 things (one or more):

- A. Work this is what we do, not who we are.
- B. Relationships this is not who we are, but who we're connected to.
- C. Things

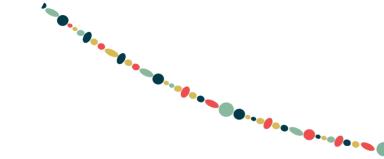
Remember, never base your worth/status/ID on something you can lose. The only thing that cannot be taken from you is God's <u>unconditional</u> love for you (note 2 Corinthians 5:17).

Jesus called this being born again.

It's a life do-over.

It does mean you're no longer defined by sin, struggles, and your past. When you say 'YES!' to Jesus, you are not your sin, struggle, weakness, or illness.

Your chemistry isn't your character (note John 8:31-32; Romans 12:2).



2. A New Capacity

Willpower is limited.

Note Romans 5:5

He isn't just near us, with us, or working on us; but He is in us and working in us (note Philippians 2:13).

We know what we want to be different about our lives in 2026.

Desire is rarely the issue.

Power/capacity/ability is the issue.

God not only gives us desire...

He also gives us the capacity/energy/strength to experience a new life through the power of the Holy Spirit.

It's about trusting, not trying harder.

How can this Christmas actually be "merry and bright"?

- Note 2 Timothy 1:7
- Christmas means that God gave His Son for you.
- You need to receive this gift.