



Your group matters.

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



Your
story
matters.

DEC 7, 2025

Message Notes



**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.

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 _____ this gift.

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



**Merry and Bright:
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.

1. 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 unconditional 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.

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

App: Message Notes/Connect Card **Or:** MYRC.LINK/CONNECT