

OUR GIVING GOD

God So Loved
Various Scriptures
Sunday, December 20, 2020

1. The _____ God Loves

- The word "world" here is humankind (us!) who have _____ from God and _____ from God.
- The word "so" here means God loves the world "this _____" and "in this _____."

2. The _____ God Gives

- God reclaims ownership by paying the ultimate price for what was already _____.
- Jesus came to _____.
- Jesus was born to _____.

3. The BLESSING God Offers

- Jesus gives His _____ to give us _____.
- Because God _____, we _____.

NEXT STEPS

1. _____ a need. _____ a need.
2. Share your _____ at stories@gracecentralcoast.org

Today's Scripture Reading

Our scripture reading today is a compilation of several texts, which are printed here for your convenience.

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him. But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God. (John 1:9-12)

And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. (1 John 5:11)

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23)

He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things? (Romans 8:32)

Today's Message

Today as we continue our 2020 Advent Series, "Our Giving God", we consider the incarnation of Jesus through the lens of God's generosity.

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Growth Groups are the glue that holds our church together, the way we find and follow Jesus together. If you are not involved in a Growth Group, now is the time to jump in at gracecentralcoast.org.

This year, our aim is to see our Growth Groups embody our 3-fold identity as followers of Jesus: Family, Servant, and Missionary. To that end, we're framing our Growth Group Interaction Guide to help groups move in that direction.

During the COVID-19 crisis our groups are meeting live and virtually using Zoom and other online platforms.

CONNECT *(ask these questions to check-in with your group)*

What are your favorite Christmas traditions? Is Christmas good or hard for you? Is this Christmas different?

DISCUSS *(use some of these questions to process God's word together)*

1. Read the Scripture reading at the top of the outline again together. How did you "come under" God's Word in the text and message this week? How did God speak to you or challenge you?
2. Does this lens of God's generosity cause you to see Christmas differently? Hear John 3:16 differently?
3. If Creation is the expression of God's great generosity, what is happening in the Fall?

4. How does God reclaim what is really already His? Why is this unexpected and shocking?
5. What are some of your ideas for engaging in this generosity challenge from the message?
6. Who might you have a challenging time being generous toward this Christmas? Why?

PRAY

- Pray for those suffering through this Covid-19 pandemic and pray for it to end soon.
- Pray for the ongoing conversation around and practice of generosity in the family of Grace Central Coast.
- Pray for your generosity toward that person you mentioned in Question 6 above.