

## **Read Romans 5:8**

Have you ever gotten a present and you were just SURE you KNEW what was inside—before you even opened it? Maybe the sound it made when you shook it gave it away or the shape. Maybe it was because you had only asked for one thing, so this had to be it!

Write down what it was: \_

But sometimes what's inside a gift isn't what you expect. Maybe it isn't even anything like what you asked for. But what if the gift-giver knew what you really needed better than you even knew yourself?

When God promised His people a Savior, they expected a King! They did NOT expect a baby born and laid in a manger. And they did not expect Him later, as a man, to be persecuted and then put to death on a cross like a criminal. But God knew better than we could ever know, that the greatest gift we could ever receive was for Jesus to come to earth as a baby, grow into a man, and die in our place.

**THANK** God that He knew our greatest need required the greatest gift.

## **Read Proverbs 19:17**

**Day 2** 

This time of year there are lots of different people who need help and some awesome organizations trying to help out. As a family, brainstorm some of the groups collecting things. Who are they trying to help? Think about giving projects you've heard about at church, in school, on the radio, TV, or internet. Take turns going around the table saying which group you'd most like to help and why. How would it make the people in need feel? How would it make you feel?

Find a special clear and empty container, like a big jar. Label it "Next Christmas!" As a family, start collecting all your coins. Whenever anyone gets or finds change, drop it in the jar. You'll be amazed by how fast it will fill up and how heavy it will get! This time next year, you can choose someone in need or a helpful organization to give the money to. But don't let them know it came from you—it's fun to be a blessing to others in secret!

ASK God to show you who you can bless with all the extra you've been given.

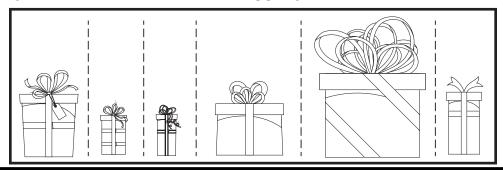


**Read Psalm 51:1** 

The greatest gift we were ever given was Jesus. Because He was perfect and He took our place on the cross, we can receive the gifts of forgiveness and salvation. This means that all of our sins can be erased! Because of Jesus, the greatest gift ever, we are free to receive even more gifts: a relationship with God, peace and joy, and a place in heaven with God forever!

Color and decorate the gift boxes below. Write "Jesus" on the biggest present. On the smaller presents, write some of the other gifts you also receive when you receive Jesus. Then cut out the boxes on the dark solid lines only. Fold the boxes on the dotted lines accordion-style so that the biggest present is in front. Some time this week, show someone the gift and explain to them all of the "hidden" gifts you've received from God!

f V f K for ways to share with others all of the amazing gifts you've received from God.



**Read 1 John 3:17** 

If God's love is inside of us, compassion will naturally flow out of us. But sometimes we don't know how to meet someone's need, or we don't have the resources to be able to help them like we want to. Remember that no matter what, we can pray for them. But usually there's something else you can do to help out too. Maybe you can give them encouraging words. Or give them your time. Or give them Jesus! Share with them the reason that you have compassion—because God was first compassionate toward you.

For each need, try to come up with three different ways to help: one that requires money or possessions, one that requires time, and one that requires words.

Your mom or dad had a really bad day at work. There is a new kid at school who doesn't know anyone.

Money: Money: Time: Time: Words: Words:

A friend on your soccer team breaks his leg and is out for the entire season.

Money: Time: Words:

**KNOW** that there is always some way to help someone in need.