

A Real Gift

SCRIPTURE

"The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23

Focus

Jesus is God's gift to the world.

Object Talk

I need three volunteers. Choose three volunteers to come to the front of the room. **Let's suppose I have a gift for every volunteer. You tell me if you think the volunteers really received gifts. Let's pretend I gave (Abby) a gift.** Pretend to give a gift. **Then I tell (Abby) that the gift will cost her five dollars. Is that really a gift? Why?** Allow a few volunteers to answer.

Let's pretend I gave (Theo) a gift. Pretend to give a gift. **Then I ask (Theo) to return the gift to me in two days. Is that really a gift? Why?** Allow a few volunteers to answer.

Now suppose I give (Tiffany) a gift. Pretend to give a gift. **Then (Tiffany) says, "I don't want your gift." Is that really a gift? Why?** Allow a few volunteers to answer. **What is the only way for someone to truly receive a gift?** Allow a few volunteers to answer.

God offers His Son, Jesus, as a gift to the world. Romans 6:23 says, "The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." This verse tells us that God gave Jesus to us as a gift so that we could believe in Him and have eternal life.



CONCLUSION

God must have thought we were pretty special to give us an incredible gift like Jesus! When we believe in Jesus, we accept God's gift to the world. Jesus is a free gift: we don't have to pay to accept Him, nor will God ask for His gift back. Jesus is a gift that everyone can have!

Close in prayer.

Going the Extra Mile

ACTIVITY

Collect drawing paper and markers or crayons. I'm going to pass out a sheet of paper to everyone. I'd like for you to draw one of the best gifts you've received in your life. This could be a gift you received on a holiday or a gift you received on another occasion. Allow time for students to complete the task and show their drawings. It's fun to receive gifts. All of us have received different gifts, but Jesus is a gift each of us can receive. We can thank God for sending Jesus to be a gift to the world.

BIBLE DISCUSSION

Let's read about why Jesus is such a wonderful gift to the world. Have a student read Matthew 1:18-22 aloud.

- Based on these verses, what important task was Jesus born to do?
- What did Jesus do to show that He was God's Son?
- What words would you use to describe Jesus?

Jesus was sent from God to save people from their sins. Because He never sinned, Jesus was the only one who could do this important task.

LIFE CHALLENGE

When we choose to believe in Jesus, we accept God's greatest gift to us. God wants us to accept His gift, but He will never force us to accept it. If you have never received this gift, you can accept it today. And even better, you can tell others about the gift God has given to the world.

PRAYER

God, thank You for Your gift to the world, Jesus. Help us to share the good news of Your gift with others. In Jesus' name, amen.