



The message of Christmas is not just that Jesus came our way; Christmas celebrates the way that he came. The way God chose to wrap the greatest gift ever says a lot about who He is, and about how valuable we are.

These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group.

1 Rick began by saying that “Christmas gives us a special opportunity to let people know how much we love them.” What are some of the ways we usually do this? Follow up: Who is someone you still need “to love” this Christmas and how will you do that?

2 LOVE INTO FOCUS: Christmas challenges the “bad wrap” God often gets. What are some of the “bad wraps” God still gets today? Which one has been an obstacle in your relationship with Him? Follow up: **Read 1 John 4:9.** What resonates with you the most from that verse? How is this a good response to all of the “bad wraps” God often gets?

3 LOVE IN THE FLESH: Jesus’ birth is love keeping a promise. Christmas happened because God always keeps His promises. After “the fall” in the Garden of Eden, what promise did God make (**see Genesis 3:15**)? Why is that significant to the story of Christmas? Follow up: What are some key examples from the Old Testament that show God preparing for His Son’s coming? Why is it important to note that God used “deeply flawed” people to keep His promise?

4 Rick went on to say, “Christmas says there is a love you can depend on... that God will do what He says.” How have you experienced that recently? When has that been a struggle for you to believe?

5 LOVE IN THE FLESH: Jesus’ life is love put into practice. Jesus knew that God often gets a “bad wrap.” So his mission wasn’t to get God to change His mind about us; it was to get us to change our minds about

God. How have you seen or experienced the life of Jesus change someone’s mind about God? Follow up: **Read John 1:18.** Share some examples of how Jesus has shown us what God is like (including specific ways He loves people). What is one way we can put this type of love into practice this week?

6 LOVE IN THE FLESH: Jesus’ death is love paying a price. God could not stand the thought of heaven without us, so He came to earth for us. **Read Romans 5:8 and 1 John 4:10.** How has knowing this personally impacted your life? Follow up: How should this truth inform how we share God’s love with other people who have yet to trust Jesus?

7 LOVE IN THE FUTURE: No matter what happens, God’s love has you “wrapped up.” Rick closed by saying, “My hope this Christmas is that you will let God love you.” **Read Romans 8:38-39.** Of the things listed in these verses that cannot separate us from God’s love, which one stands out to you the most, and why? Follow up: What is one way you can “let God hug you” this Christmas season?

Close by spending some time praying for our Christmas Candle Light Services and the people you plan to invite (share this page with them – thehills.org/christmas)

