



Christmas today vs. Christmas in Bethlehem? Well, let's just say they are two very different worlds. But they don't have to be. Christmas tends to turn into a holiday where we think about what we will get instead of what we have the opportunity to give. By looking at the Christmas story and wondering about everything that each person gave, you'll be able to give some incredible encouragement to students wanting to make Christmas less about "me" and more about Jesus.

On the first Christmas, **Mary and Joseph gave up their comfort, the shepherds gave their stories, the wise men gave their worship, and God gave everything.**

Knowing all of that, we can inspire us to give things too.

*GROW AT HOME | WEEK 1*

## **THIS WEEK**

Week 1 of Merry Christmas to Me is in the books! We talked about how, on the first Christmas, Mary and Joseph gave up their comfort.

## **BIG IDEA**

On the first Christmas, Mary and Joseph gave up their comfort.

## **The Bible**

Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:18-20, 2:13-14; Luke 9:23

## **READ THIS: LUKE 9:23**

What are some of the ways we can apply this verse specifically during the Christmas holidays?

*GROW AT HOME | WEEK 1*

## **ASK THIS**

- What's one gift on the top of your Christmas list this year?
- So far this year, have you spent more time thinking about what you want for Christmas or what you plan to give others? Why do you think that is?
- Do you agree that it's better to give than to receive? Why or why not?
- Name a few of the ways Christmas today is different from the very first Christmas, when Jesus was born.
- What were some of the uncomfortable things God asked Mary and Joseph to do to prepare for the first Christmas?
- Why do you think God allowed the first Christmas to be so uncomfortable for Mary, Joseph, and Jesus?
- Do you think following God is always going to be uncomfortable? Why or why not?
- This Christmas, what's one way you plan to give up your comfort for God, and what do you hope to achieve?
- How do you think God might be calling you to give up your comfort even after Christmas is over?



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Knowing all of that, we can inspire us to give things too.

*GROW AT HOME | WEEK 2*

## ***THIS WEEK***

This week in our series Merry Christmas to Me we talked about some of the lesser-known characters of the first Christmas story. Here's the recap: on the first Christmas, the shepherds gave their stories.

## ***BIG IDEA***

On the first Christmas, the shepherds gave their stories.

## ***The Bible***

Luke 2:8-20; Matthew 10:27

## **CONSIDER THIS**

How do you think God might be calling you to share your stories even after Christmas is over?



*GROW AT HOME | WEEK 2*

## ***READ THIS: MATTHEW 10:27***

What's one thing you've discovered about God that you could share with others?

## ***ASK THIS***

- What's the best gift you've ever been given? What made it so great?
- Have you ever been really excited to give someone a gift? Why were you so excited about it?
- Why do you think people say Jesus' birth was a gift?
- Of all people, why do you think God chose to tell these shepherds about Jesus' birth?
- When the shepherds told people the story of what they'd seen, how much do you think they understood about who Jesus was? What do you think they said?
- Have you ever felt unqualified to talk with someone about what you believe? What holds us back from sharing our stories with others?
- The shepherds shared their stories about being visited by angels — what kinds of stories about God could you share?
- This Christmas, what's one way you plan to share your stories of faith with someone else?
- Who is someone whose needs you can meet this week? What will you do about it?



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*GROW AT HOME | WEEK 3*

## **LAST WEEK**

We talked about some of the lesser-known characters of the first Christmas story. Here's the recap: on the first Christmas, the shepherds gave their stories.

## **THIS WEEK**

In Week 3 of Merry Christmas to Me, we talked about how, on the first Christmas, the wise men gave their worship.

## **BIG IDEA**

On the first Christmas, the wise men gave their worship.

## **The Bible**

Matthew 2:1-7, 2: 11-12, 5:35-40; Psalm 150:1-6

## **CONSIDER THIS:**

- How do you think God might be calling you to continue worshiping even after Christmas is over?
- This Christmas, what's one way you plan to worship Jesus with your words? What about with your actions?



Through the teachings of Jesus and the story of Saul you get to help students **love people who aren't like them, love people who are in need, love the people we envy, and even love the people they want to hate.**

*GROW AT HOME | WEEK 3*

## **READ THIS: MATTHEW 25:35-40**

What does Jesus ask us to do here? How can doing what He asks be an act of worship?

## **ASK THIS**

- What's your most controversial Christmas opinion?
- What's one thing you love about Christmas you wish you could experience all year long?
- When it's not Christmas time, how often do you think about the birth of Jesus? Why do you think that is?
- Why do you think it's important for us to hear and understand the wise men's role in the Christmas story?
- Since we know so little about the wise men, what do you still wonder about them?
- What did the wise men's gifts symbolize? If you could have given Jesus a symbolic gift of your own, what would you have given Him?
- What are some of the ways you've worshiped God recently?



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**GROW AT HOME | WEEK 4**

## **LAST WEEK**

we talked about how, on the first Christmas, the wise men gave their worship.

### **BIG IDEA**

On the first Christmas, the wise men gave their worship.

## **THIS WEEK**

It's our final week of Merry Christmas to Me! It's been a great conversation with your teenagers. We closed with a conversation about how, on the first Christmas, God gave everything.

### **BIG IDEA**

On the first Christmas, God gave everything.

## **The Bible**

Luke 2:29-32; John 3:16-17; Philippians 2:5-11

## **READ THIS: PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11.**

What stands out to you in this passage and why?

## **ASK THIS**

- What's the greatest gift you've ever given someone? Why was it such a good gift?
- We all love to receive gifts, but why do you think we also love to give gifts?
- How would you explain the gift God gave us through the birth of Jesus?
- What are some of the ways we could respond (either positively or negatively) to the gift God has given us?
- Whether or not you were already familiar with the story of Jesus, what's one thing you noticed or discovered about Him during the last few weeks?
- When Simeon saw Jesus for the first time, what do you think he thought or felt? Have you ever felt that way about Jesus?
- Why do you think God chose to come to earth as a baby?
- This Christmas, what's one way you plan to respond to the gift God has given you?

## **CONSIDER THIS:**

How do you think God might be calling you to continue responding to the gift of Jesus even after Christmas is over?

**GROW AT HOME | WEEK 4**