



# The Gift

## Part 2: The Gift You Need The Most

December 14, 2025

### Key Scriptures

*When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Matthew 2:10-11 NLT*

*He was despised and rejected—a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief. We turned our backs on him and looked the other way. He was despised, and we did not care. Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins! But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God’s paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all. He was oppressed and treated harshly, yet he never said a word. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter. ... Unjustly condemned, he was led away. No one cared that he died without descendants, that his life was cut short in midstream. But he was struck down for the rebellion of my people. He had done no wrong and had never deceived anyone. But he was buried like a criminal; he was put in a rich man’s grave. ... When he sees all that is accomplished by his anguish, he will be satisfied. And because of his experience, my righteous servant will make it possible for many to be counted righteous, for he will bear all their sins. Isaiah 53:3-9, 11 NLT*

*And he said, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.” Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.” Luke 9:22-23 NIV*

### Start Talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- What’s the most unusual Christmas gift you’ve ever received?
- What’s the longest distance you’ve ever traveled for the holidays? Do you like big holiday trips?

### Start Thinking. Ask questions to get your group thinking.

- Lots of things can cause us to wander from God—stress, lack of rest, desire for approval, etc. What is something that causes you to wander? How so?
- Read Isaiah 53:3-11. What stands out to you from this passage? How does knowing what Jesus did for you influence the way you live?

### Start Sharing. Choose questions that create openness.

- What are some practical ways you can take up your cross and follow Christ this week?
- Who can you share the love of Jesus with this week? Who could you invite to Christmas services with you?

### Start Praying. Be bold, and pray specifically.

*Father, thank You for Your Son’s sacrifice. Thank You for His willingness to come to earth to pay the price we never could. This Christmas, help us to keep in mind not just His birth but also His saving work for us all. Give us the strength to pick up our own crosses and follow You daily. In Jesus’ name, amen.*

### Start Doing. Commit to a step, and live it out this week.

- Pray and ask God to show you a way you could pick up your cross and follow Him this week. Also pray for those you're inviting to church with you.
- Christmas Eve services start next weekend! Invite friends and family to attend a service with you.