

## Love

### A different kind of Christmas story:

### Putting Christmas in the right perspective:

Matthew 1:18-21, Luke 2:8-12, John 3:16, 1 John 4:7-19, Romans 5:8-12  
Exodus 19-20, Deuteronomy 4-6, Joshua 24

- The reason for the season is \_\_\_\_\_.
- The motive for the season is \_\_\_\_\_.
- The response to the season is completely \_\_\_\_\_.

### Love that transforms:

Accepting the truth about God's love \_\_\_\_\_  
changes our love \_\_\_\_\_  
and provides both our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to love others.

## Love

### A different kind of Christmas story:

### Putting Christmas in the right perspective:

Matthew 1:18-21, Luke 2:8-12, John 3:16, 1 John 4:7-19, Romans 5:8-12  
Exodus 19-20, Deuteronomy 4-6, Joshua 24

- The reason for the season is **SIN**.
- The motive for the season is **LOVE**.
- The response to the season is completely **UP TO US**.

### Love that transforms:

Accepting the truth about God's love **FOR US**  
changes our love **FOR OURSELVES**  
and provides both our **SOURCE** and **EXAMPLE** to love others.

# FOOD FOR THOUGHT

For the week of December 6, 2020

(Questions and Scriptures for further study & discussion)

1. Chris ended his message by explaining the motivation for Christmas is God's love for us. We often hear about the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross as a demonstration of God's love for us (Romans 5:8). But what happened that very first Christmas is another great demonstration of His love. In the passage below, underline or highlight what Jesus did in order to demonstrate His love for us.

## **Philippians 2:5-11 New International Version (NIV)**

*<sup>5</sup>In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: <sup>6</sup>Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; <sup>7</sup>rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. <sup>8</sup>And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! <sup>9</sup>Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

Write out the phrases that describe what Jesus did. Next to each phrase, jot a couple sentences describing what it meant for Him to do these things.

2. During this unprecedented time that doesn't seem to be ending anytime soon, it's easy to focus on our difficult and challenging circumstances, which can leave us wondering if God loves us. How could the following passages help you better understand how much God loves each of us individually?

## **Romans 8:35-39 New International Version (NIV)**

*<sup>35</sup>Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written:*

*"For your sake we face death all day long;  
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered."*

*<sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup>neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

## **Psalms 139:1-18 New International Version (NIV)**

*<sup>1</sup>You have searched me, LORD, and you know me. <sup>2</sup>You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. <sup>3</sup>You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. <sup>4</sup>Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely. <sup>5</sup>You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me. <sup>6</sup>Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain. <sup>7</sup>Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? <sup>8</sup>If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. <sup>9</sup>If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, <sup>10</sup>even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. <sup>11</sup>If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me," <sup>12</sup>even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you. <sup>13</sup>For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. <sup>14</sup>I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. <sup>15</sup>My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. <sup>16</sup>Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. <sup>17</sup>How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them! <sup>18</sup>Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand—when I awake, I am still with you.*

3. Chris mentioned that God's love for us is the source and example of our love for others. How does 1 John 3:16-18 reinforce this truth?

**1 John 3:16-18 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>16</sup> This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. <sup>17</sup> If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? <sup>18</sup> Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

What are a couple of ways you think of to demonstrate the reality of God's love to others during this Christmas season?



## CHRISTMAS OUTREACH

Christmas is our annual opportunity to bless those in need. This year, instead of choosing ornaments, we've made it easy for you to help by displaying all options on our website. Here you will find three different ways to give back through: giving a gift, purchasing a gift card or making a direct donation to one of our non-profit partners. Drop off gifts on Dec. 13 to your campus (check the website for your campus's specific drop off times). Check the website for complete details and more information regarding drop off times. [northcoastchurch.com](http://northcoastchurch.com)