

## Small Group & Personal Bible Study

During this Christmas Season we invite you to read together with us a weekly devotion from our free gift devotional, *Christmas, The Father's Gift* by Billy Graham. (Pick up your devotional at the Welcome Center)

### This Week's Devotion: "The Gift of Love & Peace"

*Christmas, the Father's Gift* by Billy Graham (pages 31-47)

### Memory Verse: John 1:13

Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.

### Daily Bible Reading:

- Day 1: The Gift of Love (pages 31-38)
- Day 2: Matthew 2:1-12
- Day 3: John 1:1-14
- Day 4: The Gift of Peace (pages 39-47)
- Day 5: John 14:27, John 16:3, Romans 5:1

### Lesson:

On the first Christmas, the greatest gift of all time was given. It was the gift reconciliation through Christ Jesus! **God loved us** so much that He gave His only Son, so that **through believing in Him** we could have eternal life as His very own children. In the same way the prodigal son was reunited with his father, we have been reconciled to our Father in Heaven even while we were still sinners. **We now live in peace with God** simply **by receiving Jesus Christ in faith** as our Lord and Savior.

1. The paragraph above is simply put the gospel message. What part of this message do you have the hardest time understanding?

Let people share what they find difficult to understand in the gospel message. It is OK for us to not really understand how God can save through faith. Or that by simply believing in Jesus we have eternal life. It is OK for us to struggle with how a perfect and holy God could love us while we are in our sin and love us enough to sacrifice His only Son. But we must believe and in faith receive Him. Listen to see if anyone in your group might be struggling with believing. We may not understand but we believe in faith. This discussion could lead to someone trusting and receiving Jesus as Lord and Savior for the first time so be ready.

2. The gospel message, the good news of salvation in Jesus is so simple but we yet often make it complicated. How would you declare the good news to someone who is seeking?

Let people in your group share how they would declare the gospel. Focus on the simplicity of the Word and the truth that we are saved by faith in Jesus Christ alone. Often people try to layer on other things to the gospel like a changed life, a specific prayer, baptism, going to church, serving others... but none of those things as important as they may be are prerequisites to salvation.

3. What did you read this week that helped you in your journey with God? How can you share that thought with another who may need to hear it?

Let people share. Encourage them to share what God is telling them with others. We are most effective when we simply tell others what we have discovered about God and His love.