

WARM-UP

- Tell us about how your family celebrates Christmas. What is one well-kept tradition that you practice every year?
- Have you ever experienced losing a package? Did it eventually get to the right recipient? What happened?
- Recall a moment in your life that felt extraordinary or special. What made it feel that way?

WORD *³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. JOHN 20:30-31*

In the past weeks, we have been unwrapping the present that is Jesus Christ, God's gift to the world. This present is God Himself and also God's perfect communication of Himself to humanity. He is the Lamb of God sacrificed to take away the sins of the world. He is the way into heaven and the way through whom we can experience the kingdom of heaven on earth. Jesus is the perfect Savior-King people need, and who will rule with justice, peace, and righteousness. In Him is eternal life, which includes the power to live the fullness of the life God wants us to experience on earth. This is the perfect Christmas gift that people should receive. Today, we will look at how we can receive this present and experience the benefits of life in Him.

1

We receive Jesus as the present by believing in His name.

. . . but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. JOHN 20:31

Jesus paid the ultimate price in order for us to know and experience God. He now extends this gift to us free of charge. As revealed in the Bible, we receive His gift by believing in His name. He is the Son of God who came down from heaven as a man. He is the Christ, the Savior-King, whose sacrifice is sufficient to pay for all of our sins. We believe that He rose again from the grave and is now the rightful ruler of heaven and earth. What does Ephesians 2:8-10 say about the relationship between salvation and good works?

2

We receive Jesus as the present by knowing who He is and what He has done for us.

... but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. **JOHN 20:31**

The apostle John witnessed Jesus say and do many things, including the resurrection—the most important truth of the gospel. John chose the stories and truths about Jesus that he knew his readers would eventually need to know. The first step in receiving Jesus is by knowing who He is and what He has done for us. However, we are not to keep this truth to ourselves. Other people also need to know so that they could believe in Christ and receive the eternal life He offers. What does Romans 10:13–17 say about the importance of letting others know about the good news of Jesus Christ?

APPLICATION

- Do you believe that Jesus is God's gift to the world? How did you come to believe in Him for your salvation? If you haven't already done this, would you like to receive this gift today?
- Having known and believed in Jesus Christ, how does your life today point others to Him?
- How would you explain to a friend who Jesus is and what He has done for us? With whom can you share this in the coming week?

