

One truth shared: The one whom we unwrap in the manger is truly God and helps us to know God.

In these last days [God] has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things and through him he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

Hebrews 1:2,3

Unwrapping God

Each family has their own traditions when it comes to opening gifts. Some open them on Christmas Eve. Others on Christmas morning. But whenever you open them, most of the unwrapping fun comes in the discovery. What is hidden underneath this wrapping paper and beneath all this tissue paper? In my humble opinion, some of the best gifts are ones in which a person can constantly discover new gifts hidden in each of the gifts.

As we unwrap God this Christmas, we have to get beyond the cliched ideas about him and discover new gifts hidden in the gift. What do we find when we unwrap this One lying in the manger? To say that we have found God doesn't seem to go far enough. In fact, the writer of the verse above can't seem to say enough about who he is. And we've only got two verses in front of us! Consider a few highlights:

1. Jesus is the Way by which we know God. In other words, if you want to know what God is like, you have to listen to his Son. He is the One through whom God speaks.
2. Jesus is the One who made this world and everything in it together with the Father. Indeed, he still holds this world together with his almighty, creative, and creative Word.
3. He is the radiance of God's glory. To say it simply, the Son is the reflection of God, but not like you when you look in the mirror. He is the real deal. Truly and fully, God. He isn't a knock-off Nike. He is the original, the real, and the only true God.

As we keep pulling back the wrapping paper on this child lying in the manger, he is truly a wonder to behold. Today, just marvel at what you find there and know that he is fully for you. It may seem cliché to say it, yet it is true. This one whom we unwrap is *your* God and *your* Savior. He is yours, and you are his. Merry Christmas!

Prayer: Immanuel, thank you for coming into our world to be with us and to save us. Help us trust you and your plan when we are experiencing difficult circumstances. As we face these struggles, fill us with your Holy Spirit, strengthen our faith, and use us to reach more souls with the good news of your love in Christ. Amen.

Foundation Teen Facilitators Guide

Year A – Christmas Day

A Savior Is Born

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Unwrapping God

Starting the Discussion: *This first section is intended to be light and easy, to engage and get the conversation going. Have a little fun with these questions.*

- What is your family tradition for opening gifts?
- What is your favorite part of opening gifts?

Connecting: *This section serves as a bridge between the opening conversation and the body of the study/discussion. It should get the group thinking about the topic/text even before they've looked at it.*

- What old and familiar things have you remembered about Jesus this Advent/Christmas season?
- What new things have you learned this Advent/Christmas season?

Digging In: *Here we want to dig into some texts or the text for the day and see what Scripture says. The questions are meant to be open ended to give a beginning of a scriptural conversation. These are a guide for a spiritual and scriptural conversation.*

The writer to the Hebrews has some things to say about Jesus. Read Hebrews 1:1-9 and do the following:

1. Identify four or five distinct things that he says about Jesus.
2. Discuss what this means for you and for your life.

Conclusion: *Here we want to wrap up the discussion, perhaps circling back to the "connecting question" above.*

- Martin Luther says that one of the miracles of Christmas is that we believe that Jesus came for me. Do you agree or disagree with him, and why?
- Why is it vitally important that we understand that Jesus is not just God, but that he is God for me?