
TALK IT OVER

The Tree With The Greatest Gift

Christmas is for Everyone - Part 2

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Open your group in prayer and remember that this is only a guide. Feel free to discuss each of the provided questions in the message notes, or simply dive deeper into just one. Before you close with prayer, take a few minutes to look over the Three Essential Questions towards the end of the document.

Message Notes

Talk It Over

Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers.
Matthew 1:2 (ESV)

Question 1 Jesus' lineage contained deceivers, traffickers, prostitutes, and murderers, among others. We all have interesting and complicated family trees. How does God take our family experiences and turn them into a gift, allowing us to hope against hope, both for the salvation of our families and the assurance that God can turn our trials into treasures?

Talk It Over

Before the spies went to sleep that night, Rahab went up on the roof to talk with them . . . 'I know the Lord has given you this land,' she told them . . . 'For the Lord your God is the supreme God of the heavens above and the earth below.'
Joshua 2:8–9a, 11b (NLT)

Before they left, the men told her, if she wanted to be saved, when they entered the land . . . 'When we come into the land, you must leave this scarlet rope hanging from the window through which you let us down. And all your family members—your father, mother, brothers, and all your relatives—must be here inside the house.' . . . 'I accept your terms,' she replied. And she sent them on their way, leaving the scarlet rope hanging from the window.
Joshua 2:17–18, 21 (NLT)

By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.
Hebrews 11:31 (KJV)

Question 2 God revealed himself in a godless place to a prostitute who became the great, great grandmother of King David which demonstrated that God can take any situation and redeem it for his purposes. Talk about a situation that felt hopeless without God's presence. What does the statement, 'No situation is more hopeless than our Savior is graceful' mean to you?

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Even though the fig trees have no blossoms, and there are no grapes on the vines; even though the olive crop fails, and the fields lie empty and barren; even though the flocks die in the fields, and the cattle barns are empty, yet I will rejoice in the Lord! I will be joyful in the God of my salvation! The Sovereign Lord is my strength!

Habakkuk 3:17–19a (NLT)

Question 3 When we become discouraged because of our circumstances and the future seems bleak, Habakkuk 3:17-19a teaches us that in our deepest sorrow we can find our deepest joy in God. How is it even possible to be grateful and experience joy in the midst of our darkness? How does gratitude lead to joy?

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Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else?

Romans 8:32 (NLT)

Question 4 In light of God's amazing gift to us at Christmas, what are you going to give him this Christmas?

Three Essential Questions

The following questions are intended to be open-ended and encourage members to consider how they felt and what they, or the group, can do as a result of hearing the message!

1. **What did you hear?** *What point in this message was most impactful for you?*
2. **What do you think?** *How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?*
3. **What will you do?** *How will you or your group put into practice what you've learned today?*

Small Group Action Steps 2

1. We commit our lives to Jesus Christ. Text [NEWSTART](#) (1 word) to 83000 or email newstart@saddleback.com for free spiritual resources.
2. We express our gratitude to God for his goodness by giving back to him. Because of your faithful generosity, we have been able to provide food and supplies to over 600,000 people in Southern California during this COVID crisis. Give at saddleback.com/give.
3. We meet in small groups to discuss what we have heard. To join a group, text [SMALLGROUP](#) to 83000, visit our website at www.saddleback.com/joingroup, or email smallgroup@saddleback.com.

Are you interested in the Bible and in helping small groups benefit from the weekend message? Well, you are in luck! Saddleback members like you create these discussion guides each week. If you are interested in joining the team, please email Maturity@saddleback.com