

THE GREATEST

gift

 Youth Ministry
December 15, 2013

Lesson:

This week, we talked about the meaning of Christmas.

We reviewed the birth of Jesus as told in Luke 2:1-20. We then listed all of the various Christmas traditions that we follow when we celebrate Christmas. We decided that somebody who was not familiar with Christmas would likely not be able to tell what Christmas is about by watching how our society celebrates. We said that our society has commercialized Christmas to the point that it is hard to tell what Christmas is really about.

To show this point, we watched a short clip from a documentary that had several young men from Africa being exposed to our Christmas traditions. They had many questions such as how our actions celebrate the birth of Jesus and if Santa was in the Bible.

We talked about how the meaning of Christmas can be explained in John 3:16. God was born into our world as one of us to save us from ourselves, to give us an everlasting relationship with him, free from sin, as it first was, and we did absolutely nothing to deserve such an amazing gift. He did it by his grace, simply because he loves us. Christmas is about God's love for us.

We said that this doesn't mean that we shouldn't do all those other things to celebrate Christmas but we should be careful to not let all those things distract us from the true meaning of Christmas. We agreed that others watching us celebrate Christmas should see how important the birth of Jesus is to us.

We also said that we should do what the shepherds did in our reading of Luke. We should glorify and praise God for all he has done and for giving us the greatest gift ever. We should share the amazing news with everyone by letting others see our excitement about the birth of our Lord & Savior and allow them to see God's love shining in us.

Bible Verse: Luke 2:1-20

Look these verses up in your Bible.

Bible Verse: John 3:16

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Bible Verse: Matthew 1:22-23

22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

Bible Verse: Isaiah 7:14

14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

God Bless,
Chris & Michelle