

Life Together – Advent Conspiracy 2

Worship Fully

Spend Less

[Give More]

[Love All]

Week 2: December 18/19, 2010

- † Think about the most memorable Christmas gift you've ever received. What was it that touched you? Why do you still remember it today?
- † What are some of the dangers when we associate love solely with the giving of material objects? What are some other ways that we can give that clearly communicate love?

God gave us his presence

"A young man buys his father a pound of coffee beans with one stipulation: Dad can only enjoy this gift with his grown son. And in the hours and days it will take to drink those cups of coffee, that son just wants to listen to his dad tell stories as the two of them get reacquainted."

- † Who do you need to just connect with by giving the gift of your presence?

The gift of Jesus was personal

Read Luke 2:10–11

- † What was the most impersonal gift you ever received? What was the most impersonal gift you ever gave?

His gift was costly

- † What was the most expensive gift you ever received or gave? Did knowing the cost of this gift give it more significant meaning?
- † Think about your relationships with your spouse, children, parents, or close friends. As you consider what it means to give relationally, what is it that most excites you? What part of this kind of giving will be the biggest challenge for you?



Read Matt 25:34–40

“This Christmas, one of the things that could distinguish a Christ-follower is a love that reaches out to the hungry and thirsty and sick and imprisoned, the unclothed and completely forgotten. What an act of worship this would be. What a glorious gift to those in need, but somehow such love is a gift to Jesus himself.”

- † In what sense are our acts of mercy and kindness a gift to Jesus?
- † Do you believe that he takes such actions (or lack of them) personally?
- † If your family or home group were to “love all” this Advent season, what would that look like?
- † Is there something your family or home group could do together to love those who might be considered “the least of these?”

Examples:

- † Light My Way – a ministry to ex-prisoners and their families
- † SOS Shelter – a ministry serving the homeless community of Washington County
- † SCTNow – restoring life to children rescued from sexual slavery in the greater Portland area.

