

Genesis 1:26-29 <sup>26</sup> Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." <sup>27</sup> So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. <sup>28</sup> God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground." <sup>29</sup> Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food.

Genesis 2:16-17 <sup>16</sup> And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; 17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."

John 1:1-4, 9-12 <sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ... <sup>9</sup> The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup> He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—

John 3:16-17 <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

"All have turned away" (Ps 14:3) "Everyone has turned away" (Ps 53:3) "All have turned away" (Rom 3:12).

Fred Hennes, Sermon #653, "The Gift of JESUS" (John 3:16-17)

I've never \_\_\_\_\_ a gift, other than the name of Jesus.

Through our \_\_\_\_\_, we became separated from Jesus and His many gifts. The priceless image we bear became stained.

God's love has been \_\_\_\_\_ us through priests and prophets, signs and wonders, His Word and his prophecies, to show us that while we are separated, He is near.

The gift of Jesus is meant to be shared. The \_\_\_\_\_ must be broken.

When you share faith you always get \_\_\_\_\_ in return. If you don't have enough faith to share, try sharing the faith you do have.

The Seven "I am" Sayings of Jesus

1. "I am the bread of life" John 6:35
2. "I am the light of the world" John 8:12
3. "I am the gate for the sheep" John 10:7
4. "I am the good shepherd" John 10:11
5. "I am the resurrection and the life" John 11:25
6. "I am the way, and the truth, and the life" John 14:6
7. "I am the true vine" John 15:1

The Christmas Challenge: Add \_\_\_\_\_ as a gift that you will share this season.

**Life Group Activity**

1. Name the person who shared Jesus with you. How might your life be different if that person chose to be silent?

## Discussion Questions

2. Regarding this sermon, is there any truth that stands out as being particularly helpful, insightful or difficult to grasp?
3. What is a life changing gift that you have received? What made this gift so special?
4. Are gifts meant to be shared? Explain.
5. Have you ever considered Jesus to be a gift? I'm not talking about his actions (such as salvation, forgiveness, love, grace, etc.) but rather I am talking about Jesus Himself. Explain.

6. Which of the seven I am statements of Jesus do you consider to be the most valuable to your life?

## Application Questions & Prayer

7. Who are the people that you normally buy a Christmas gift for? Regarding this list, is there anyone on it who has never heard you share about the gift of Jesus?
8. Taking whatever little faith you have, who specifically will you share Jesus with? Remember, when you share your faith it always grows larger.
9. Pray for one another so that your group may excel in the generosity of sharing Jesus.