

Christmas is the gift of light.

Most of the pain in the world is caused by people.

"It is hard to imagine anyone in this world who has not been deeply injured in his or her relationships to others." — Dallas Willard

A life without love is a life lived in darkness.

Anyone who claims to be in the light but **hates** a brother or sister is still in the **darkness**. *1 John 2:9*

1 John 2:11

"Anger is an acid that can do more harm to the vessel in which it is stored than to anything on which it is poured." — Mark Twain

The gift of Christmas is the light of love.

Anyone who **loves** their brother and sister lives in the **light**, and there is nothing in them to make them **stumble**. *1 John 2:10*

Above all, **love** each other deeply, because love **covers** over a multitude of **sins**. *1 Peter 4:8*

True biblical love is not a feeling but an action.

"Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt **compassion** for him. Going over to him, the Samaritan **soothed his wounds** with olive oil and wine and **bandaged** them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and **took him** to an inn, where he **took care** of him. The next day he handed the innkeeper **two silver coins**, telling him, 'Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher than this, I'll **pay** you the next time I'm here.'" *Luke 10:33-35*

Love is doing what is best for the person in need.

Dear children, let us not **love** with words or speech, but with **actions** and truth. *1 John 3:18*

"Love restructures our world for good." — Dallas Willard

How do we get it?

1. Fully understand what God did for you.

This is **real love**—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and **sent his Son** as a sacrifice to take away our sins. *1 John 4:10*

We love because he **first** loved us. *1 John 4:19*

2. Fully surrender your life to the Holy Spirit.

But the **fruit** of the **Spirit** is **love**... *Galatians 5:22*

Will you open the **gift** of **light**?

One Year New Testament Devotionals

Small group discussion questions related to the weekend message will resume in January 2018 during our next 10-week group cycle. Use these One Year New Testament questions to discuss with your small group or answer individually.

Devotional

Answer this question, "If your money or capacity were limitless, what would you do with your life?" When we set aside our mental and physical restraints, we can dream up some dramatic and dynamic scenarios. However, nothing we can imagine can begin to compare to what God has in mind for those who trust in Him. Give thanks to your Heavenly Father for what He will accomplish, and for the role that you will be able to play as one of His own!

December 24/25: Revelation 15:1-16:21

When in your life have you felt the closest to God? In your opinion, what would keep people from turning to God for salvation? How could you use the message of these chapters to engage others in a discussion about Christ?

December 26: Revelation 17:1-18

How would you describe the difference between knowledge and wisdom? Why is it so important for us to seek wisdom from God? What can you do to become wise? In what ways do you need to reaffirm your commitment, devotion, and loyalty to Jesus Christ?

December 27: Revelation 18:1-24

What is pride, and why is it dangerous? In what ways can we become ensnared by wealth? What can we do to avoid being slaves to money? What worldly attitudes and actions hinder us from having an impact on the world around us?

December 28: Revelation 19:1-21

What is the value of faithfulness? In what area of your life do you want to build a reputation for being faithful and true? How can you develop faithfulness and integrity in your work and home life?

December 29/30: Revelation 20:1-21:27

What is the value in knowing that we will be judged for the way we live? How should the certainty of future judgment affect the way we live? How can you help a friend or family member avoid a future separated from God?