



GOD'S GIFTS

Lessons from 1 Thessalonians and the Christmas story

	DATE	WEEK	WHAT	TRUTH BOMB
1	9/10	POD	God's gift - Courageous faith 1 Thess 3 (v7-8)	God gives us strength and courage to follow Him
2	16/10	BIG GROUP		
3	23/10	POD	God's gift - Hope in the Future 1 Thess 4:13- 5:11	God gives us hope for the future
4	30/10	BIG GROUP		
5	6/11	POD	God's gift -Thankfulness 1 Thess 5:16-18	God gives us the ability to see be thankful - which helps us see like He does
6	13/11	BIG GROUP Baptisms		
7	20/11	POD Advent candles packs become available	God's greatest gift- Jesus! Luke 2:1-7	God gave us the greatest gift - Himself!
8	27/11	BIG GROUP	Giving Day	A missional activities centred around the backpacks (cards, packing)
9	4/12	POD	Our gift for the Greatest Gift! Matt 2:1-12	Our greatest gift to God is our worship
10	11/12	BIG GROUP	Christmas Prayer Stations	Christmas themed Prayer stations for all ages
11	18/12	COMBINED EVENT	Joy	No 10AM program 2:0-pm Fair // 3:30pm Carol service 5:30pm fair // 7:00pm carol service
	24/12 25/12	HOL PROG	It's Christmas!	Christmas Eve Kids program

God's Gift Teaching - More Detail

Inspired by the adult teaching series on 1 Thessalonians and the lead up to Christmas, our Term 4 theme, God's gifts, will aim to share with our kids some of the amazing gifts we have as God's kids, with the greatest being Jesus! **Our prayer in this is our kids will be filled with hope and joy as they discover all God lavishes on us.**

We love the idea of working alongside the adult teaching but never want to miss the opportunity to speak into the real reason and joy of Christmas. 1 Thessalonians is likely the first letter Paul wrote and he is writing to the Christians in Thessalonica who are experiencing a lot of persecution, even martyrdom. It appears that Paul was with them when this started, and it was so bad, he had to leave for everyone's safety. You really get the spiritual father vibes from Paul in this letter and he is full of encouragement for his church. Paul shares that following Jesus will lead to a counter-cultural way of life. While this may cause opposition, we are God's kids, and through the hope we have in Jesus, His kingdom, and His future kingdom to come, we have the ability to respond in love and live with strength.

We will explore the themes of strength in difficult times, hope in the second coming of Jesus, and the counter culture lifestyle of thankfulness as gifts we have from Jesus to live life to the full.

Term 4 Special Notes

Offering

We are going to be collecting cake mixes in October, and then focus our attention on Life Care back pack for those in our community. This is the third year we have done this great initiative and its always wonderful to see our kids get so into giving!

Advent Family Packs

We want to empower some significant discipleship moments at home this holiday season with our advent candle packs. We are providing all the goods and prayers, so that you can help remind your children the reason for all the joy and anticipation at Christmas is Jesus!

Christmas Celebrations

We love to go out with a bang and this year will be no different. Our usual River Kids Christmas party will be an all in church carols and fair event on Sunday 18 December. More details to come, but save the date!