



The Gift of God

John 1:1-5

Sunday, November 29, 2015

CONNECTING TOGETHER (20 - 30 min.)

Share Thanksgiving highlights and lowlights as you come together for this last week of Fall Growth Groups

GRAPPLING WITH THE WORD TOGETHER (20 - 30 min.)

1. John 1 is a completely different take on Christmas as the Apostle John takes us to the “halls of eternity” rather than to the earthy sights, smells and sounds of a barn where Jesus was actually born. What jumped out at you in this text/message?
2. We've titled our Advent 2015 series “Regifting Christmas” and we're playing with this idea of “regifting.” Share any fun regifting stories from your life . . . regifts you've given or received.
3. Jesus is called “the Word” (logos) in John 1:1-5. So think about your words. How do your words **express, reflect and reveal** your mind and person? What is John saying about Jesus when he calls Him “the Word”?
4. How does John assert that Jesus is eternal? How does John assert the loving intimacy that Jesus enjoyed with God forever?

5. As a church, we're trying to GO & GROW with the Gospel by being more externally focused a few strategic times throughout the year (like we've been with our Fall Kick Off). We believe that Christmas Eve is one of the times in the year when folks are more apt to visit church. This year, in addition to our traditional Christmas Eve candlelight service, we're also throwing a fun “after party.” As an easy way to regift Christmas, who can you invite to one of our 4 Christmas Eve services (2, 4, 6 PM at GraceSLO, 5:30 PM at Grace5Cities)?

FAMILY FOCUS THIS WEEK

A way to apply God's Word in our households together (roommates, housemates, families, couples).

Sometime this week, make an opportunity to share/discuss this question. . .

How is the first Christmas REGIFTED? In other words, who is it shared by and to whom?

PRAYING TOGETHER (20 - 30 min.)

Use your prayer time this week to pray for one another and our church that we might take seriously the challenge and joy of Regifting Christmas and inviting people to our Christmas Eve services. Pray for boldness, grace, timely conversations with friends, neighbors, family and strangers around town.