



Discussion Guide for “Presents!”

O Christmas Tree Week 5

Aren't presents the best part of Christmas? There's something powerful about these tangible expressions of our love for each other. That points us to the power Christmas: Jesus' incarnation. God became human, gave us the gift of his physical presence among us. But don't take our word for it. Let's hear from a woman named Hannah, who understood the revolutionary power of gifts more than 3,000 years ago!

Scriptures for Further Reading

1 Samuel 2:18-26; Psalm 148; Luke 2:41-52; Colossians 3:12-17

[Click here](#) to read all scriptures

Passage for Sacred Reading:

Sacred Reading is a way of reading Scripture with an eye toward transformation, not just information. You can find a [step-by-step guide here](#). The passage for this week's sacred reading is [1 Samuel 1-2](#).

Questions for Discussion

1. What's the best Christmas gift you've ever received? Is there a worst? What makes a present good?
2. Revisit 1 Samuel 2. Why do you think Hannah made Samuel a coat every year? What did that coat represent?
3. Read Hannah's song (at the beginning of 1 Samuel 2). Now read Mary's song in Luke 1. What is this song about? Why do you think Mary based her song on Hannah's?
4. According to Mary (and Hannah), what does Jesus' birth mean for the world? How is this a gift from God to the world?
5. What gifts have you given this year? What do they represent to you?