

You Are God's Gift to the World!

Week of October 22, 2017

These Digging Deeper questions can be used the week following the Sunday message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your family or Connect Group discussions.



Message Recap:

Read Luke 4:6–16, Romans 6:23, Isaiah 61:1, John 20:18-22

It's important to recognize that Jesus purchased the gift of eternal life for us with his sacrifice. The song says if he never did anything else for me, he's done enough. No other gift we've ever received has, or will come close. As we reflect on the gift that Jesus provided for us, we need to be mindful of sharing this gift with others. We cannot accept this gift in a self-centered way; freely he gave, and freely we should give. As we go about our daily lives, we should constantly be thinking and saying, *here we are Lord, send us*. The message we have been given may fall on fertile ground, or rocky ground, but our job is to make sure that others hear about the gift that God has provided to everyone.

Pray

Dear Jesus, please give us the wisdom and the courage to recognize opportunities to share the gift of eternal life with others. Help us not to be ashamed of you and your message, but to go forth boldly as you commanded and tell the world of your love. Give us the words to minister to the broken in our community and beyond. As we minister to the least of these, help us to truly meet their needs, while fulfilling your instructions.

Getting Started

- What is one of the best gifts you've ever received from someone for a special occasion or for no reason at all?
- What is the value of a gift that is bought for someone else but kept for personal use instead?

Digging Deeper

1. Jesus gave us the gift of eternal life. Can you think of some other gifts that God has provided?
2. Have you discovered what your spiritual gifts are? How can you further develop these gifts? How do they fit with the needs of Severn Run?
3. Describe what it means to love others unconditionally—with passion and without limits. On a scale of 1-10 how would you rate how you treat others? (1=no regard for others, 10=unconditional love always)
4. Read John 20:18-22. How and/or why are most churches filled with verse 19 believers?
5. What is the difference between a verse 19 believer and a verse 20-21 believer? Which are you?
6. What do you think Jesus meant when he said, "In the same way I am sending you..." How will you apply this to your faith walk this week?
7. Can you think of any opportunities where you can minister to those in need? Do you have creative ways you share God' love with those who are broken?

Living Jesus

Have you accepted the gift of eternal life? If not, Jesus is offering you this free gift. Accept it and change your life! If you are a believer, have you been keeping the gift of Jesus to yourself, or are you allowing yourself to be sent to the world just as Jesus was? Accept the challenge to be the difference in the world and share the gift of Jesus by serving those around you in your church and in your community.

Your Story

Have you had any opportunities to share the gospel or serve others recently? How do you live as a verse 20-21 believer? Share your answer on social media or email the church using #MyStory.