



SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS for the week of December 5, 2021
“The Greatest Giver”
Rev. Mike Kenyon

Theme/concept

God paid the ultimate price because God treasures us as the ultimate prize. As the song “What a Beautiful Name” says, God “didn’t want heaven without us.” Jesus taught Nicodemus the necessity and the possibility of being born again (see John 1:12-13). The Pharisees based their system on the assumption we need to earn God’s favor. Jesus taught that life isn’t about what we can give to God, but about what God gives to us. Some people assume God is primarily concerned with getting something from us. God gives new life through the power of the Holy Spirit, not through our own achievements (Romans 8:31-32).

Application

Our giving is our joyful response to all God gives us.

Icebreaker (for groups)

What is the most joyous occasion you have ever experienced?

Reflections on the sermon

How did the preaching about the meaning of “God gave his one and only Son” help you better understand the significance of God’s generous act?

Scripture

John 3:16 (New International Version)

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

7. Are you more likely to respond to God joyfully or grudgingly? Why?

Closing prayer

Lord, we praise you as a God who keeps his promises, treasuring us even at the ultimate price of your son's life on earth. Merciful and just God, we trust you to purify us from all unrighteousness when we confess our sins. Empower us to live out the joy of being citizens in your kingdom. Father, open our ears and our hearts to the subtle promptings of the Holy Spirit, who connects us to your unseen world and magnificent glory. Having been born from above, may we receive from you all the blessings from above that far outshine anything we see on earth. It is in your name we pray. Amen!