

A Gift Beyond Description

Big Idea

Pastor Dino Rizzo focused this week's message on the greatest gift ever given: Jesus. If you think about it, there are plenty of ways to describe most gifts – in fact, marketers work hard all year to string the right words together for a description of even the most extravagant earthly gifts. But unlike any other gift, there are no words that can adequately describe the gift that Jesus is to us. The gift of Jesus is so multi-faceted and touches so many areas of our lives in so many different ways that it is impossible to summarize. Truthfully, none of us can comprehend the vast implications of Jesus' presence in our lives. But we can begin to meditate on a few of the incredible reasons why Jesus is the gift beyond description. First of all, we can think about his patience. It's difficult to wrap our minds around how patient God has been with us through all of our mistakes and stumbling, but He remains constant in His belief in us. He never gives up on us. Secondly, we can think about His process. We have a God who will work with us as we progress in our faith. He walks this journey with us, and His grace is sufficient for us when we're weak. Next, we can think about His constant presence. How beautiful it is to have a God who never leaves us! He is always there for us. Also, we can think about His unconditional love for people. His eyes are always on people, taking note of and caring about every detail of their lives. And finally, we can think about His willingness to let us be a part of what He is doing on the earth. He is God, and He chooses to include us in His work and His story. While these reasons only begin to scratch the surface, we can see why there is no way to properly describe the gift that Jesus is to us. Truly, He is the greatest gift we could ever receive.

"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" – 2 Corinthians 9:15 (NKJV)

Discussion Questions

- Share and discuss a time in your life when God was more patient than you deserved.
- Thankfully God doesn't expect us to be perfect immediately. He takes us through a process and we make progress. Discuss a time when you felt God walking beside you.
- God has chosen to include you in His story. Share with the group how you currently participating in His work. Explain how you can get more involved in what He is doing around you.

Prayer Focus

Thank God for the incredible gift of Jesus. Thank Him for His patience, His willingness to walk with you through the process of faith, His presence, His unconditional love, and His willingness to let you be a part of His great story. Thank Him for the great implications of Jesus' presence in your life that you don't even understand. Ask God to lead you and introduce you to new ways that you can be involved in His work. Commit to taking the opportunities that God gives you and participating in His story in an even greater way.

Next Step

Spend some time this week thinking about these different facets of Jesus. The more you contemplate the implications of His presence in your life, the more you will appreciate just how incredible – and indescribable – He is. Begin to write down ideas for how you can get more involved in what God is doing on the earth. He so desires for you to join with Him in His work!

Leader Tip

Commit to take on one of your participants as your co-leader next semester. Confirm they have completed the Growth Track and Small Group Leader Training.