

# A BETTER GIFT



## SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

EAST ABBOTSFORD CAMPUS

DECEMBER 8, 2019

### INFO AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Online giving is now available! Visit [northview.org](http://northview.org) and click "Give".
- Christmas Comedy Night: Laughing All The Way tickets are on sale now! Tickets can be purchased online at [northview.org/comedy-night](http://northview.org/comedy-night)
- The East Abbotsford Campus is hosting our 2nd annual Neighbourhood Christmas Party! **Sunday, December 15, 4:00-7:00pm**. There will be crafts for kids, snacks for all, a Christmas Light Tour (on our shuttle bus), and more! Invite your friends and neighbours!
- Sign up for Northview's Newsletter at [northview.org](http://northview.org) to keep up to date on all events, courses, and ministries.
- Northview is running many different courses this winter. Those include:  
**DivorceCare / DivorceCare 4 Kids:** 13wk seminar starting January 14  
More information and to register see: [northview.org/courses](http://northview.org/courses)

### PRAYER REQUESTS

- Please pray for all pastors and staff as the new ministry year begins!
- Please pray for all the community group leaders and Bible study leaders, and also the Divorce care, Divorce Care for Kids, Grief share and Resolving Everyday conflict leaders as these courses begin.

### LEADER NOTES

**Suggested Timing for a 2 hour meeting:**

**Connection:** 30 Minutes (visiting / snacks / announcements / ice breakers)

**Content:** 30 Minutes (Observation and Interpretation questions):

**Commission:** 10-15 minutes (Application questions)

**Care:** 15-30 minutes (Sharing and Prayer) **Connection:** 15-30 minutes (visiting / snacks)

### LEADING SERMON-BASED DISCUSSIONS:

- Read the scripture passage(s) together as a group.
- Direct people back to the text if they are going on rabbit trails or talking about opinions and speculation, by asking, "Where do you see that in the text? What answer does the text provide for that question?"
- As you transition to prayer time, pray through the issues and ideas that the text brought up.

### A BETTER GIFT SERMON SERIES

In this series, we will be looking at the gifts God has given us through Jesus Christ: a better hope, a better peace, a better joy, and a better love.

#### Advent Resources:

*Hidden Christmas* by Tim Keller

*Heart of Christmas* by Hank Hanegraaff

*Indestructible Joy* by John Piper

(online PDF: [desiringgod.org/books/the-dawning-of-indestructible-joy](http://desiringgod.org/books/the-dawning-of-indestructible-joy))

*Advent 2019* by Radical

(online PDF: [radical.net/book/advent-2019](http://radical.net/book/advent-2019))

*Advent Devotions Book* by MB Seminary

(online PDF: [mbseminary.ca/advent2019](http://mbseminary.ca/advent2019))

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## Observation

*This section is aimed at helping people observe the details of the text: what is written, what words or ideas are repeated and emphasized, the text's structure and how this text fits into the wider context of the book of Romans.*

1. Read James 4:1-6.
  - a. What stands out to you from this passage?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. Who is experiencing conflict according to this passage? What 'groups' are at war with each other?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. According to this passage, why is there not peace between people and other people?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - d. Why is there not peace between people and God?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - e. What are the two "relationship options" between people and God?
  
2. Read James 4:7-12.
  - a. What solution does this passage offer for making peace with God?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. What about making peace with each other?

## Interpretation

*This section is aimed at linking the current text to other texts or to the bigger biblical narrative. If you are running out of time, feel free to skip this section.*

1. Read Colossians 1:21-23.
  - a. What is the natural state of people?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. What has God done to make peace with mankind?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. How does God view us as a result of Christ's sacrifice on our behalf?

Do you believe this is true about you? Do you picture yourself as holy, without blemish, and free from accusation in God's sight? Which of these 3 are the most difficult for you to believe? Why?

## Application

*This section is aimed at helping people apply what we have read in the text to our lives. It is intended to foster more open-ended discussion as people connect the text to their everyday life, and reflect on how it changes the way they think and act.*

1. Read Matthew 14:22-33.
  - a. List all the things which threatened the peace of the disciples in this passage.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. What does Jesus do or say to bring them peace?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. What waves and storms are threatening your peace right now?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - d. How can you keep your eyes on Jesus in the midst of the waves and storms you are experiencing?  
How can we pray for you?