



Devotional & Article Writing Starters

Topic: "Christmas Gift Wrap"

Julia Bettencourt

Take the ideas and build upon them to make them your own. Add in your own points, illustrations, explanations, and relating Bible verses.

The Greatest Gift

- Focus on the Gift of God's Son.
- John 3:16
- Love was great.
- His suffering was great.
- His forgiveness to us is great.

Unwrap Your Spiritual Gifts

- Focus on unwrapping your spiritual gifts.
- 1 Corinthians 12
- Unwrap them to give them to the Lord by serving Him.
- Unwrap them to give them to others by loving and serving.
- Unwrap them to give your life meaning and fulfillment.

Unwrap the "Presence" of Christ

- Focus on unwrapping the "presence" of Christ as a "present" to yourself.
- Ways to know God's presence.
 - Indwelling of the Holy Spirit
 - Quiet Time worship with the Lord
- Worshipping the Lord with others
- God's Omnipresence

Holy Gifts

- Jesus left us with the Holy Spirit.
- John 14:26
- He gave the Holy Spirit to us as a gift.
- In turn we give the gifts of the Holy Spirit to Christ.
- Romans 12
- Do we bear those gifts in our lives?
 - 1 Peter 4:10-11
- How are we using our gifts?
 - Are we serving Christ?
 - Are we loving others?

The Gift of Peace

- We see peace surrounding the story of Christ birth.
- Luke 2:14 "...peace on earth..."
- One of the greatest gifts that Jesus gave us is peace.
- John 14:27
- John 16:33
- (Do a study of the word "peace". You'll find some interesting things.)

Unexpected Gifts

- How do we feel when we receive an unexpected gift?
 - Surprises us
 - Makes us smile
 - Makes us feel special sometimes

- Means more because it was unexpected
- Why do we receive unexpected gifts?
 - Because a loved one or friend loves us
 - Because a loved one or friend wants to cheer us up
 - Sometimes we don't even know why we receive an unexpected gift. It may be from a stranger. Maybe someone pays for your coffee or drive-through order. We don't always know the reason an unexpected gift is given.
- How do we feel about the Gift of God's Son?
 - Surprised
 - Think it's too good to be true
 - Makes us feel grateful
 - Makes us feel unworthy
- Why did God send His Son for us?
 - He loves us
 - He cares for us
 - He thinks we are special
- What are some reasons people reject God's Gift?
 - Don't believe it's true
 - Don't want to give up their life as it is
 - Pride

Unwrap the Love of Jesus

- His love is for everyone
- His love is good
- His love is compassionate
- His love is forgiving
- His love is everlasting

Permission Details for “Starters” & Writing Prompts:

You may not reproduce the “starters” or writing prompts as is. You must add and contribute to the content and make your own devotional/article with them before sharing. The end result should be your own thoughts done with your own words. The “starters” and writing prompts are offered as an outline/skeleton base to build upon with your own writing on top of the “starter”. Think of them as a “starter” for bread. Your loaf will always turn out a little differently even if others use the same starter as you. Be creative and bake your own loaf!