



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to week two of our *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas* Advent series! Last week, Pastor John challenged us to wonder as a child would wonder this holiday season. This week, Pastor Chip discusses an even greater challenge for many of us: graciously receiving the help and gifts others and God will give to us this Christmas.

DISCUSSION

1. Is it hard for you to receive gifts from others? Why or why not?
2. Jesus, the Creator of the world (Colossians 1:15-17), who humbled himself to live as a human, enlisted the help of others just like us. Read a few examples of Jesus asking and receiving help in **John 4:4-7**, **Luke 8:1-3**, and **Matthew 26:36-38**. How do these impact your perception of him?
3. **Revisit John 13:1-7**. Pastor Chip taught we need to learn to receive gifts before we can properly give them. Or as it's more commonly put, "You can't give what you don't have." Peter's pride in this story is just one example. What's most likely to get in the way of you receiving gifts from God and others in this season?
4. How can you open yourself to the kindness and gifts you'll receive this Christmas season? How might your position then inform you offering kindness and gifts to others?

TAKE ACTION

1. Take some time this Christmas season focusing on the gifts God has already given you. Find new ways you can be regularly reminded of them.
2. Write out what's most likely to keep you from receiving the gifts God and others are sending your way (pride, self-sufficiency, etc.) Then, draw a line through them and surrender them to God.
3. As you rest in gratitude, let it inform and determine one practical way you can be a blessing to someone else this Christmas season.

RESOURCES

1. [A Love Worth Giving](#) by Max Lucado
2. [Soul Keeping](#) by John Ortberg
3. [Good to Great in God's Eyes](#) by Chip Ingram