

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11

What Are You Giving Jesus?

Christmas is a time for giving. Just think about all the giving we do during the month of December. We go out and buy presents so that we can give them to family, friends, teachers, and maybe even co-workers. We bake cookies and candy so we can give them to our neighbors. We give money to special Christmas Projects at church or in the community like the Salvation Army, Santa Cop, Children's Fund, and the Food Pantry. Christmas is a time of giving. But I have a very important question to ask you as you make all the preparations, "What are you giving Jesus for Christmas?"

In all the giving, sometimes we forget why we are giving in the first place. Just think about it. Why are we celebrating Christmas? It's not just to buy presents and give them. Giving is nice. Giving is a good thing. But are we giving because of what Jesus Christ has given us? So in order to not forget what Christmas is all about, I suggest that at the top of your list you put the name Jesus. And again I ask, "What are you giving Jesus for Christmas?"

This isn't an easy question to answer, but if we go back to the original Christmas in Matthew 2, we can get a few ideas from the Wise Men. The Wise Men got it right

when they brought something to give to Jesus. That's why the Wise Men are included in the Nativity Story. It's because of the extraordinary effort they made to see this baby Jesus. Jesus was so important to them that they dropped everything that they were doing and they started on a journey following a star. And that star eventually led them to Bethlehem.

Matthew 2:9-11 ...and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.

From this passage we see the Wise Men gave Jesus two very important things. First of all they gave him their

WORSHIP. They were overjoyed to finally find Jesus after the long journey from the East and the very first thing they did was bow down and worship. And that's what Jesus still wants from us today. He wants us to worship him with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength.

The second thing that the Wise Men gave were their TREASURES. The Wise Men didn't just give a cheap gift they got at the local store. It says they opened their treasure chest and gave freely and generously from it. What does it mean to give Jesus from our treasures? It means that we give him the very best of what we have. It means that we give sacrificially. It means that we give joyfully.

So don't forget to give something to Jesus this year. And may it be as joyful for you as it was to the Wise Men. - Pastor Scott



Coming in January - R12

There's something big coming in January and it's going to involve the entire congregation. It has the potential to change lives and to change our church. What is it? It is R12.

What is R12? R12 is a 6-week church wide campaign that is based on the timeless principles of Romans 12. It was developed by Chip Ingram and Living On the Edge Ministries. Jesus said that we are to go and make disciples. But often times we're left trying to figure out what does a disciple look like? What are the identifying marks of a disciple? How do we know if we're obeying Christ's command? Romans 12 gives us those answers. It tells us what TRUE SPIRITUALITY is all about. It shows us the RIGHT PATH we need to take toward maturity. In other words it's all about Discipleship.

What are all the parts of R12? This is a church-wide campaign. That simply means that this is more than just a sermon series. There are several aspects to this campaign.

Sermon Series - Each sermon will focus on a verse or a group of verses from Romans 12. It will take us 6 weeks to work through the entire chapter.

Daily Devotional Book - After the sermon, continue learning about the main ideas through daily readings in R12 Devotional Book called "Living on the Edge – Dare to Experience True Spirituality."

Small Group Study - This is the chance to discuss and grow in a more personal setting. See how Jesus lived out these R12 principles in his own life.

The more you participate in R12, the more you will grow. The more of us that participate, the more our church will grow spiritually. Each part of the campaign reinforces the main principle for the week.



What will we be learning? We will look at 5 Key Relationships and what a true disciple of Christ looks like in all 5 of those relationships.

- Relationship with God
- Relationship with the world
- Relationship with yourself
- Relationship with believers
- Relationship with nonbelievers

When is R12? R12 will start on Sunday January 16th and will run through the end of February. Small group sign ups will begin at the beginning of January.

Quote from R12 – "It's a daring proposition, really. To live a life without regrets. To discover God's best for you...then live it with abandon. To learn who you are... and who you are not. So you can focus on others instead of yourself. So you can pursue the dreams and passions God created you to fulfill. This is living on the edge. The edge is where real life happens. At times frightening, always exhilarating, it is that place where you are in sync with God and His purposes for your life, that place that turns the routine and mundane in the eternal."



Young Couples Fellowship Scavenger Hunt
Category: Act like a turkey



Young Couples Fellowship Scavenger Hunt
Category: Something orange on your head

Connecting to the Power Source

Hearing a strange noise in my home one night, I reached over to a small table lamp. I began twisting the small black knob clockwise until I heard the “click” of the switch. Nothing! Beside the fact I was startled out of a deep sleep; my frustration came to a crescendo after unsuccessfully trying to get the lamp to work. I twisted the knob a few more times with the same result. No light!

Everything turned out alright. I never did find what caused the noise but I did discover something interesting when I went back to check on the table lamp. At some point the cord had been pulled out of the electrical socket. After plugging the cord back in to the power source the light bulb lit up.

This illustrates what happens as followers of Christ when we try to do things in our own power and strength. Just as a lamp needs a cord that connects its light to the power source; believers of Jesus have prayer as the connection between us and the Ultimate Source of Power – Almighty God!

I am not telling you anything new. Prayer is vital for spiritual health and connection with Jesus! Listen to this

promise Jesus made to His followers: “I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples” John 15:5-8 (NIV).

My desire for the Student Ministry is that we stay connected to God and love one another for His Kingdom and Glory! This can only happen if our ministry is powered by your prayers on our behalf!

This is an invitation for you to rally around the next generation by committing to be praying for them for the 2011 year. I am looking for people who would be willing to pray daily or weekly for students, families and the adults that volunteer time, energy and resources in Junior and Senior High students each week.

Seriously – stop and think about this. Don't volunteer if you are not

led by the Lord. Don't do it if your “yes” would help you feel less guilt. Don't do this if you think it will earn you “bonus points” with God. Don't do this if you think it will give you some “insider” information you can gossip about with others.

But if you are led by the Lord to be a part of an incredibly tough, yet rewarding, eternal adventure please respond! Jesus said, “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit--fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. This is my command: Love each other” -- John 15:16-17 (NIV).

You can express your desire to become a part of this Prayer Team by contacting Pastor Brant or the Church office. When you respond please make sure to confirm your most recent email address or let us know if you want to receive prayer updates via regular postal service. Beginning in January of 2011, I will do my best to update you once per month. Pray, listen and respond...I look forward to seeing who God moves to serve Him in this endeavor.

- Pastor Brant



Jr. High Youth Group having some fun on Wednesday night.



Sr. High Youth Group enjoying food and fellowship around the table.

Finding Friends, Following Christ

The Evangelical Free Church
P.O. Box 544
Broken Bow, NE 68822
Return Service Requested

broken bow
evangelical FREE church



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Celebrate Christmas With Us

Christmas Caroling & Angel Tree Gift Delivery

Sunday
Dec. 12th
4:30 PM
Soup following



Christmas Program



Sunday
Dec. 19th
10:45 AM

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



Friday
Dec. 24th
5:30 PM

Christmas Coffee

Sunday
Dec. 26th
9:30 - 10:30 AM
(Children will
watch a
Christmas video.)

