



WEEK TWO

LUKE 2:1-7

Jesus is born in a stable.

SAY THIS

HOW DO WE KNOW
GOD LOVES US?

GOD GAVE US JESUS.

DO THIS



DRIVE TIME

As you drive, tell your child to look out their window for anything that looks like Christmas, and when they see something say, "Happy birthday, Jesus!"

REMEMBER THIS

"God has given a Son to us."

Isaiah 9:6, NCV

BASIC TRUTH

GOD LOVES ME

CHRISTMAS AND THE "G" WORD

by Carey Nieuwhof

Hi. My name is Carey, and I'm greedy. (This is the point where you all say, "Hi Carey.") I hate to say it. I mean no one goes around and says they're greedy, right? We might think *other* people are greedy (it's just so easy to spot the sins of others—even from a distance), but it's so difficult to see in ourselves.

But read this definition of greedy and tell me if at least a piece of it doesn't own you—or your kids: *Greed is an excessive desire to acquire or possess more than what one needs or deserves, especially with respect to material wealth.*

What makes this time of year difficult for greedy people is that we're going to add to the pile of what we have that we arguably don't need. There are things I want that I don't need. And most of us are actually going to receive things that not only do we not need, but we do not want.

There's a fine line we tread as parents in helping our kids celebrate Christmas. I still remember the almost delirious excitement I had as a child in being able to open gifts at Christmas. Let's face it, what kid doesn't love to get gifts at Christmas?

So how do you make sure, as a parent, that you don't inadvertently fuel greed in your family this Christmas? I suppose you could not give presents and hand out coal. But in my experience, the very best antidote to greed I've discovered is *generosity*. The more I give, the deeper I cut into the greed that lives inside of me.

The more I am willing to take giving to a sacrificial level, the more I am reminded that this life is not about me or about my wants and desire.

As Christmas approaches, ask yourself this question: what am I doing to stem greed in my family this Christmas? Maybe you could:

- Sponsor a family in need.
 - Clean out your toy room and donate toys to a local charity
 - Bake cookies for your neighbors
 - Make sure giving is part of your full year—your weekly practice—rather than just a seasonal pursuit.
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