



WEEK FOUR

LUKE 1:26-33, 38, 46-49; 2:1-20;
MATTHEW 2:1-2, 9-11

God gave us Jesus because
He loves us.

SAY THIS

HOW DO WE KNOW
GOD LOVES US?
GOD GAVE US JESUS.

DO THIS



BATH TIME

Sing to the tune of "Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush" as you bathe your baby: "God has given a Son to us, Son to us, Son to us. God has given a Son to us. Happy Birthday, Jesus!" Repeat.

REMEMBER THIS

"God has given a Son to us."
Isaiah 9:6, NCV

BASIC TRUTH

GOD LOVES ME

AN IMPERFECT CHRISTMAS

by Carey Nieuwhof

It's no secret that Christmas can be one of the most stressful times of the year. And the tension is that by Christmas Eve, all the 'how to avoid stress' tips from the *I've-got-everything-together-why-don't-you* people seem too little too late:

- Start your shopping early. (*Too late*)
- Eat in moderation. (*You've already pigged out*)
- Spend less. (*You tried. Really tried.*)
- Don't say 'yes' to every family gathering. (*But how could you say 'no'?*)

I could go on, but it wouldn't be helpful. The truth is there is always some stress associated with the holidays. Which is incredibly *good* news. Especially given that it's Christmas. The stress you're feeling (or the grief, or the emptiness) is exactly why Christmas arrived in the first place.

Jesus arrived on the planet not because we had it all together, but because we didn't.

Jesus didn't come for us because we were exceptionally well organized and on budget.

Jesus didn't come into a world where families were perfectly behaved.

He came into a world that desperately needed GRACE. What if your imperfect Christmas is actually a front row seat to grace?

Grace is a much misunderstood concept. It's never earned. It's not deserved. Because if it were, it wouldn't be grace. Grace is simply undeserved love.

Love that came to you not because you've got it oh-so-together, but because you don't. That's Christmas. That's the Gospel.

And if you look hard enough, it's actually in the tension this Christmas where you might see grace the most clearly:

At dinner with that terribly awkward relative. Grace never discriminates. Grace is favor that is unmerited, and your favor can be too.

When the kids expect too much. In the same way that you get frustrated with the expectations of your kids, God must at times get frustrated with the expectations we bring to him. Yet his love remains.

When you see someone in need. Jesus was born in a feeding trough, and the announcement of his birth went to common shepherds. God has a heart for His people.

In your exhaustion. Grace comes when we need it most . . . and it never runs out.

The surprise of Christmas is this: It speaks to us in our weakness even more than it speaks to us in our strength. And because of your imperfect Christmas, you might have a front row seat to see what Christmas is actually all about.

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