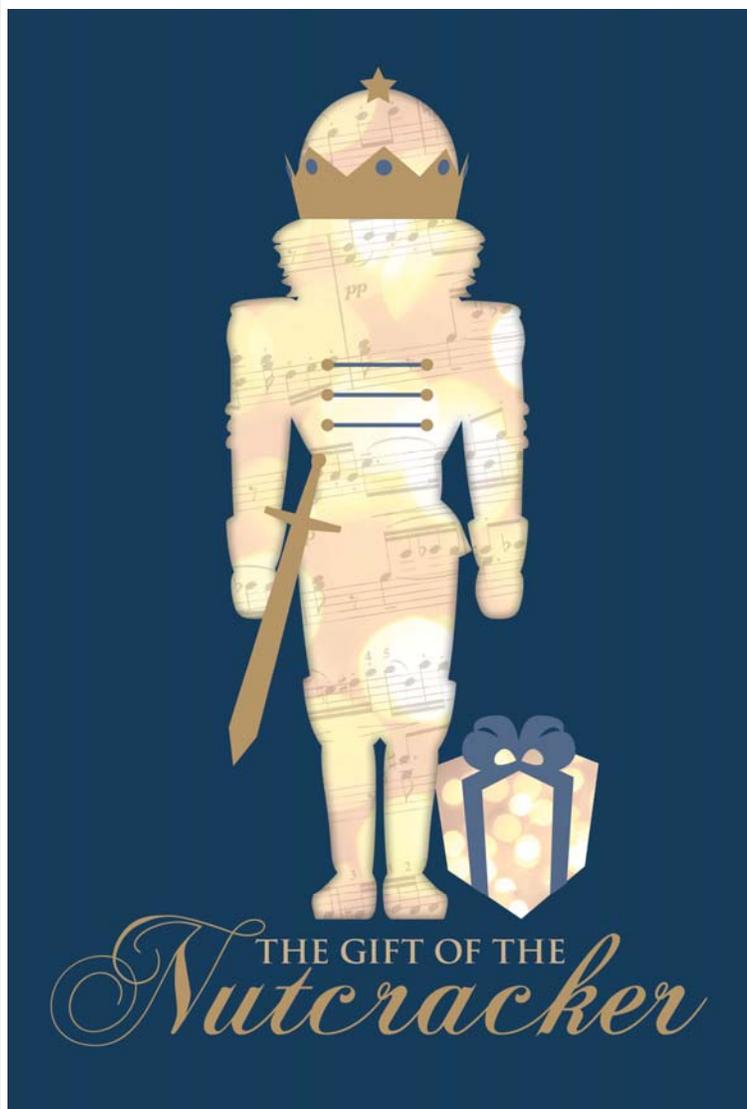


DECEMBER 16, 2018



GRAB GATHER GROW

A simple study you can just grab, gather a group of people—either family, friends, co-workers, folks from the gym ... and grow your faith. During Advent add an Advent Wreath. This week light three of the four candles.

OUR THEME THIS WEEK

The Mouse King: Changing Perspective

OUR THEME VERSE

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. **Luke 3:1-2**

OPENING CONVERSATION

Talk about the first time you, your kids or grandchildren first met Santa Clause. Was it a moment of grandeur or terror?

Read together our Scriptural Foundation for this week:
Luke 2:1-2 Matthew 2:1-5, 7-8 Luke 3:1-2

OPENING PRAYER

Eternal God, as we encounter you once again in your word, give us new eyes and fresh perspectives. Remind us of the power of your community of believers gathered together. Rekindle our will that together we may respond to what you would have us do to more fully follow Jesu Christ, Your Son, whose birth we anticipate. Amen.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(pick one or more depending on your time)

In The Nutcracker, Clara meets not just one mouse, but mice twice her size and with a king! The Gospel of Luke deals with perspective. Read over Luke 2:1-2 again. Notice how Luke starts out with power and descends from there. Christmas flips our

perspectives. Power systems get flipped. Starts with an emperor, ends with a baby becoming King! What ways this Christmas must our perspectives get changed. What large problems are not as big as we think? What small things can we do that might make a big difference?

Matt Rawle in *The Gift of the Nutcracker* suggests that when we engage in defending ourselves against the war on Christmas, "our discipleship become defensive without invitation, which means we build walls that end up protecting nothing." Do you agree? Why, or why not?

Is there really a war on Christmas? Has it affected in any way the way you celebrate the birth of Christ into our lives?

SERVICE

(pick one or two of the following service events and act)

Our Change for Change the next two weeks are giving to our Good Samaritan Fund. Our Good Samaritan fund helps our families and neighbors who find themselves in crisis or need. Pastors Rich and Henry distribute the funds as needed. Take up a collection, hold a fundraiser, bring your change to worship with you, make a special donation ...

BUMC is collecting Warm Things this December. Collect any warm things you would like to donate or purchase and bring them to the fellowship hall. We are collecting for men, women, children and youth so all sizes of warm things are needed. We're also in need of any size propane tanks (they will be used at the Homeless Camp on Hiawatha in Minneapolis).

Join us this Wednesday, the 19th, for encounter Christmas. We are going to put together homeless kits for us to handout to homeless folks in the Brooklyns. If you can bring along with you some gallon plastic bags, chap sticks, warm socks, fruit snacks, wrapped candy ... Meet at the church at 6pm.

Home Huddle Texts for the Week

Share
(highs and lows of the day)

Read
(a piece of scripture)

Talk
(about how the scripture interacts with your highs and lows)

Pray
(make sure to include your highs and lows)

Bless
(last thing you do tonight)

Sunday: Luke 3:1-2

Monday: Luke 2:1-2

Tuesday: Matthew 2:1-2

Wednesday: Matthew 2:3-4

Thursday: Matthew 2:7-8

Friday—watch a version of the Nutcracker

Saturday: Luke 2:10

Blessing: Come, Lord Jesus.

