

### Getting Started

Think about gift giving. Have you ever given an extraordinary gift? One that was expensive or unexpected or extravagant? What moved you?

Do you think gift-giving in America is *transactional*? That is, do you find that there’s a sense in which we give gifts because it’s expected, because someone else has given us a gift? If you’ve ever felt that way, how do you feel about it?

### Into the Bible

Read Genesis 1:26-28 and 2:7. What is the first gift the Lord gave to humanity?

Was He under any obligation to give that gift and what’s the significance of that?

What does the gift say about the character of God?

Read Genesis 3:8-15. What was the second gift the Lord gave to humanity?

Was He under any obligation to give that gift and what’s the significance of that?

What does the gift say about the character of God?

1 John 2:2 and other passage suggest that Jesus is the fulfillment of the whole burnt offering. Read about that offering in Leviticus 1. What lesson do you think we should learn about Jesus’ death on the cross from this comparison?

Read 2 Samuel 18:32-33. What can we learn from the grief of David over a rebellious and alienated son about God’s grief over the death of His Son?

Having been so loved, what reaction does 1 John 3:1-6 expect?

Is such a life repayment? Does it make grace less free?

### Digging Deeper

In the 1997 movie *As Good As It Gets*, Jack Nicholson’s character professes his love for Helen Hunt’s character by telling her, “You make me want to be a better man.” How is that a fitting comment to the God who has freely given you so much?