



I. REVIEW/INTRO

- A. Christmas gifts don't always bring great joy
- Sometimes gifts are better than you expected!

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

II. GOD IS HERE

- A. God with us

Matthew 1:23 (NLT) "Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.'"

- This announcement followed 400 years of silence

Hebrews 1:1 (TLB) Long ago God spoke in many different ways to our fathers through the prophets, in visions, dreams, and even face to face, telling them little by little about his plans.

- Elijah was one of the prophets that God spoke to, and spoke through

1 Kings 19:11-12 (NLT) "Go out and stand before me on the mountain," the Lord told him. And as Elijah stood there, the Lord passed by, and a mighty windstorm hit the mountain. It was such a terrible blast that the rocks were torn loose, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. And after the earthquake there was a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there was the sound of a gentle whisper.

- B. The message of Christmas is God saying, "I'm near"

Hebrews 1:1-2 (TLB) Long ago God spoke in many different ways to our fathers through the prophets, in visions, dreams, and even face to face, telling them little by little about his plans. But now in these days he has spoken to us through his Son to whom he has given everything and through whom he made the world and everything there is.

- The birth of Christ was a display of the Glory and Majesty of God in the midst of ordinary

- C. The whisper says, "I'm close, I'm near, I'm here"

- The presence of God is the most powerful when it's the most personal

Psalm 16:11 (NKJV) You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

- The greatest joy is found in the presence of God