

TAKE HOME SHEET



Series: Vintage Christmas
Message: The Gift That Keeps On Giving
Speaker: Jeff Geyer
Date: December 26/27, 2015

Get Started:

What was the worst gift you ever received? Have you ever experienced a letdown at Christmas? How can Christmas be a letdown?

Discuss:

It was revealed in a recent study that about 45% of people dread the Christmas season. People have their reasons for why they dread this holiday. What would be some reasons people might dread Christmas? Do you consider yourself someone who dreads the Christmas season? If so, why?

Why should all of us expect some letdown in the days after Christmas?

We read about Moses dealing with a letdown. God performed several miracles for His people in the first 23 chapters of Exodus. Even after a miracle, God's people complained. Moses, the leader, dealt with this complaining on a daily basis. God asked Moses to get away for a few weeks. **Take a moment to read Exodus 24:1-3.** Based on what you know, how would you describe a normal day for Moses? Where was Moses going? What did the people agree to do? Do you think Moses was excited to get away?

What is normal life like for you? How is your relationship with God, work, and people? How worried are you about money? How often do you want to get away from normal life?

Take a couple minutes to read Exodus 32:1-3, 19-20. Has Moses' normal life changed at all? Why did the people break their agreement? Why is it that you don't want Christmas, vacation, or your big event to end? Why don't you want to go back to normal life?

Take a couple minutes to read Exodus 33:1 and Psalm 34:17-18. Was normal life ever meant to be easy? How did the 40 days Moses spent with God prepare him to get back to normal life? How does taking a break from normal life help you prepare/re-engage in normal life? How does God remind you of His promises? How has God picked you up after a letdown?

Next Steps:

Talk with your parent, spouse, small group and/or small group leader about taking some of these next steps.

- Accept Jesus' invitation and commit to following Jesus for the first time.
- Learn and share the story of Moses and the golden calf.
- Memorize Psalm 34:17-18.
- Ask God to help you with preparing for normal life.
- Attend the upcoming Grief Share (bit.ly/griefsharenh) this January.
- Talk and listen to someone you trust about a letdown.
- Forgive someone who has let you down, or ask someone you've letdown and hurt to forgive you.
- Write out God's promises to you and put them somewhere you'll be able to see them.

Go to newhope.org and click on messages to download this week's Take Home Sheet or stop by Guest Services to pick one up.

BIBLE TRANSLATIONS:

NLT – New Living Translation