

All I Want for Christmas - Week 3. All I Want for Christmas is... a lot of things, but you know, the biggest hole in my life is one I'll never fill on Amazon. It's something I've known and pushed out of my mind for a long time. Maybe this Christmas is the time to let this deepest hope be known and start to unwrap the love I've lost. Christmas is almost here, maybe it's time for you to make this wish too.

WELCOME!

Life, for adults and kids alike, is most fulfilling when it is woven deeply with others and that mysterious element we often call the third strand, or "God." Learn more about Fabric at www.FabricMpls.com

Is today your first visit? Welcome! Come say hi and choose a gift at the ? table after the gathering.

Got Babies? Hang out with them in The Nest (Media Center) and watch the livestream to stay connected. The Nest is also available for drop off (6mos-3yrs).

WHAT TO EXPECT

We're glad you're here!

Take a seat and get comfortable.

- Music by Chris Tripolino & the Fabric Band
- Welcome & Say Hi!
- Message-Greg Meyer
- Connecting with & supporting Fabric
- More music & closing thoughts

Fabric Kids - want to share a Christmas song before our Christmas Eve gathering? Email chris@fabricmpls.com.

DECEMBER WITH FABRIC

Sunday, 12/18 @ 10:30am - Kids present *You Must Bring a Hat*

Saturday, 12/24 @ 2pm - Christmas Eve @ Field

Saturday, 12/24 @ 9pm - Christmas Eve Outdoors

[No Sunday gathering Sunday, 12/25]

Saturday, 12/31 @ 11:30am - Chili Cook-Off

[No Sunday gathering Sunday, 1/1]

Purchase a wreath (\$35) after today's gathering! \$15 of each wreath will go to the 2023 HS Trip to Appalachia.



NEXT SUNDAY!

Kids present *You Must Bring a Hat*



Fabric Kids will be sharing a story filled with a zany bunch of characters, singing, music, and even some hip hop gnomes that get a little side-tracked with the rules and expectations of celebrating Christmas.



Fabric Chili Cook-Off: Saturday, December 31, 11:30-12:45pm.

Individuals and/or teams have the opportunity to compete against each other to be voted as best chili in town (or at least at Field School)! All proceeds will be donated to local non-profits. Learn how you can get involved...or just mark your calendar for this delicious event! Use the QR code to fill out the form.

Fabric Kids are taking on roles, learning songs and dances all to help tell this delightful story based on the Children's book *You must Bring a Hat* (to be shared Sunday 12/18!). Sunday mornings, through Dec 11, kids head directly to the gym for an Advent Moment, snack and musical practices. More at fabricmpls.com/winter.



Extend a Winter Welcome to New MN Arrivals. A way to be Fabric with Kali Pliego. On the topic of Purposes and Preferences, I had an opportunity to live into purpose drop into my lap recently at work... read more and learn how to help new MN arrivals at fabricmpls.com/blog

You have material needs and some big global, societal dreams you'd like. *What else do you really, really want for Christmas?*

A Couple of Things to Remember:

EVERYTHING IS ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS!

Relationships are HARD.

Relationships are WONDERFUL!

If you want better relationships under or gathered around the tree this Christmas, here's the first thing to realize...

You can't CHANGE another person.

But you can INFLUENCE them.

And you do that by CHANGING yourself.

Some Presents that could show up under the tree for you and those people in your life you are struggling with.

Christmas Present #1



NAME who those people are. And what **COULD CHANGE** in you.

Jesus to Peter, "Do you love me?" Peter, "Yes, you know I love you." Jesus said, "Feel my lambs." A second time, "Do you love me?" Peter, "Yes." Jesus, "Care for my sheep." Third time, "Do you love me?" Peter, "You know I do!" Jesus, "Feed my sheep." John 21.15-17

Christmas Present #2



FORGIVE them for their offense. And do it for **YOUR** sake.

Peter to Jesus, "If someone sins against me, wrongs me, how many times must I forgive? As many as 7 times?" Jesus, "Not 7. but 7x70." Matthew 18.21-22

Christmas Present #3

Resolve to only **THINK THE BEST** of them.

"...whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things." Philippians 4.8

Christmas Present #4

Check your **BOUNDARIES**.

Jesus to his followers, "See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves." Matthew 10.16

Christmas Present #5

Dare to **GO FIRST** ...and be **PATIENT**.

Jesus, "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." Matthew 5.43-44

Your gift to you!



Name yourself as someone to love, and decide how to do it.

Forgive yourself.

Resolve to believe the best about yourself.

Check the boundaries that protect you from yourself.

Go first for yourself too. Get support!

ONE MORE THING! Everything you hope to give others because they need it, YOU need it too!

Jesus' ultimate relationship lesson: *"Nothing is more important than to love Yahweh, your God, with all your heart, soul, and mind (that is, weave your life with full integrity into all things) and your neighbor as you love yourself."* Matthew 22.36-39

HOMEWORK: Spend some time with your sticky notes this week. Make the notes you can, but more importantly take steps towards doing what you write. And don't forget, love yourself!