Date: 1/31/15

Title: The Greatest Gift

Theme: God’s greatest gift came in a simple plain package

Object: Box wrapped in brown paper with a note inside

Text: John 3:16 For God so loved the world…

I hope you know this verse and are able to finish it.

That’s really our only outside Christmas decoration. We have a big sign that we hang up over our front door that says: “For God so loved the world…”

And we hope that everybody that sees that sign will finish the verse in their hearts [finish].

How many are getting excited about Christmas?

What’s so exciting about Christmas? (Presents!)

Do you have a wish list? Have you written down some things you’d like to get for Christmas?

I remember when I was a kid. I could hardly get to sleep on Christmas Eve.

I was so excited about what surprises I would have in the morning.

What if you got a present that looked like this and it had you name on it? [Show plain gift]

It’s not wrapped up in pretty paper. It’s not shiny and bright. There are no pretty ribbons on it.

And you might be tempted to think that it’s not a very nice gift.

It’s just a plain old box that probably doesn’t have anything very nice in it.

Maybe it’s just like a pair of socks or underwear.

I used to hate to get clothes for Christmas. I wanted toys!

So you probably wouldn’t be very excited to open a gift like this.

Maybe that’s why so many people have missed Jesus: He didn’t come in a fancy package.

It was more like this plain brown package.

He came as a baby, not as a conquering king.

He was born in a stable instead of a palace.

His parents were simple working people instead of rich landowners.

They could find no room in the hotel; Jesus our Savior had to be born in the barn.

It was not a very pretty package, but inside was the greatest gift every given in the history of the world.

This gift will do something for you that no other gift could come close to doing.

The angel told Joseph what name to give the little baby that Mary would have.

Gabriel said: “You are to give him the name Jesus because He will save His people from their sins.”

Hey, do you want to open this gift and see what’s inside? (Maybe it’s a pair of socks…)

O look! It’s a note from Jesus. Let me read it.

“Dear children,

God loves you so much that He gave me to be your Savior. I loved you so much that I died on the cross for your sins. This is the gift we give to you. If you receive this gift by loving me as your Savior and Lord, God will forgive you when you repent and give you eternal life instead of eternal death. I hope you’ll accept this gift. Love, Jesus.”

Are you interested? How many would like to accept Jesus, the greatest gift ever given?