



## The Seven Words of Christmas

### Robert Morris

**Focus** Seven words were prophesied connecting to Jesus' birth that speak to us today. Salvation, favor, blessing, guidance, joy, redemption, and peace are all gifts He wants to give us as we celebrate the birth of His Son.

**Fun** Embrace a new tradition. Challenge your family to give one gift this year that is out of the box. Instead of purchasing this gift, get creative. Design it, craft it, bake it. And take a photo of the memories.

**Review** Key Scriptures: Genesis 3:1–20, 5:2; 1 John 2:16; Isaiah 61:10; Revelation 12:10

#### 1. Salvation

*Luke 1:67–77*

Jesus' name in Greek means "I am the God who saves." His birth made a way for us to be saved. It's not just to go to heaven. We are saved from our old sinful lives, from the bondage we were in, that we may walk in freedom with Him!

#### 2. Favor

*Luke 1:26–30*

The word for favor is more frequently translated as grace. Jesus' birth meant the extension of grace and favor to the whole world. Just like we have multiple *favorites* in terms of what food and movies we like, each one of us is God's favorite.

#### 3. Blessing

*Luke 1:39–45*

The curse has been reversed! Jesus' entry into the world releases blessing on all who believe. He is the ultimate fulfillment of our search for happiness.

#### 4. Guidance

*Matthew 1:19–20, 2:13–23*

Jesus came so that we could have guidance every day! He still speaks through dreams and through His Word, leading and guiding us by His Holy Spirit.

#### 5. Joy

*Luke 2:8–10*

Joy is not based on our circumstances. We will experience difficulty. But Jesus is the reason we can go through those difficulties and still have joy!

#### 6. Redemption

*Luke 2:36–38*

God is not limited by our age, our qualifications, our sin, etc. Jesus paid the price to redeem us, to buy us back in full, to restore to us all that sin has stolen. Even if we fall away from Him, God loves us and came to redeem us.

#### 7. Peace

*Luke 2:25–35*

Even though we have all sinned, we have peace with God *through* Jesus. Peace is not determined by our circumstances. We can experience turmoil and pain yet still have peace through Him.

**\*Group Dynamics Idea\*** Complicated family dynamics can sometimes be quite painful during the holidays. Break into small groups of three to four people and ask if there are family members or relationships that really need a touch from the Lord this season. Pay attention to that need. Is it for guidance? Salvation? Joy? Redemption? Shower them with prayers, that the gift God gave us through His Son's birth would manifest in their lives.

### Discuss

1. Salvation is not just our ride to heaven. How has God saved you here on earth (from self-loathing, fear, or anxiety, etc.)? What testimonies can you encourage yourself and others with?
2. Pastor Robert said, "Christians are the only people who can genuinely grieve and rejoice at the same time." Both grief and joy are important emotions to express. How can we practically learn to rejoice in moments of grief?
3. How does the story of Hosea and Gomer the prostitute convey God's love for His people, Israel, and His heart to redeem?

4. In Luke 2, Simeon interrupts his prophetic word over Jesus to speak to Mary and say, “Yes, a sword will pierce your own soul also.” Have you experienced something like this before, where you suddenly realize your calling will come with more heartache and difficulty than you first imagined? What is God saying by paralleling this revelation with the revelation of His peace?
5. God has given each of these gifts to us and revealed them through His Son’s birth. Which of the seven words speaks to you in the season you are in? How can you embrace that revelation today?

**Take Home** As we conclude, remember the following:

- Jesus came to the earth to right what was wrong, to restore and redeem creation back to the Father.
- This Christmas season, God wants to give you the gifts of salvation, favor, blessing, guidance, joy, redemption, and peace.
- These gifts are not limited to the old or young, male or female, but are available for everyone who believes in Him.

**Prayer** Lord, thank You for revealing Your generous nature through the birth of Your Son. You are a good Father who delights in giving us good gifts. Teach us how to celebrate this season in light of what You have gifted us. And keep our eyes ever-focused on You. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

**\*New Leader Tip\*** Encourage your group to pray for people the Lord wants to impact, and suggest your group members take the next step and invite them to our upcoming Christmas musical, *Chasing Lights*, or to our Christmas Candlelight Services. For information on dates, times, and locations for both events, visit [gatewaychristmas.com](http://gatewaychristmas.com).