

Title: “The Message Inside the Card”

Purpose

To remind us that Christmas is more than what’s on the outside—the decorations, traditions, and cards—it’s about the life-changing **message inside**: Jesus Christ.

- “What do you usually notice first when you receive a Christmas card?”
 - The picture?
 - The design?
 - Who it’s from?

Explain:

“Most of us judge a card by the outside first—but the most important part is always *inside*.”

“Today, we’re going to look at the Christmas story the same way—by opening the message God sent to the world.”

Scripture 1: God Sent a Message of Love (Luke 2:10–11)

Luke 2:10–11

“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.’”

Illustration with the Card

- Hold up a sealed card.
- Explain that before opening it, we don’t fully know what’s inside.

“Christmas was God sending a message to the world—delivered not in glitter or wrapping paper, but in a baby.”

Key Points:

- Christmas is **good news**, not good advice
- The message is for **all people**
- Jesus is God’s personal message of rescue

Reflection Question

- “When was the last time you truly paused to receive the *good news* of Christmas, not just the busyness around it?”

Scripture 2: God Writes His Message Personally (Isaiah 9:6)

Isaiah 9:6

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

“A card feels special when it’s written *to you*. Isaiah tells us that Jesus wasn’t sent generally—He was given *to us*.”

- **Wonderful Counselor** – God understands us
 - **Mighty God** – God is powerful enough to save
 - **Prince of Peace** – God brings peace, not pressure
 - “Which of these names do you most need this Christmas?”
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Scripture 3: We Are Now the Cards God Sends (2 Corinthians 3:3)

2 Corinthians 3:3

“You show that you are a letter from Christ, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.”

“After receiving God’s message, He sends *us* out to carry it.”

Discussion:

- Our kindness, patience, forgiveness, and love
- The way we respond during stressful holiday moments
- Who we reach out to this season

Activity

Write the name of someone God might be calling them to encourage this Christmas

- Or write a short prayer inside the card (not to give yet—just as a commitment)

Closing Prayer & Challenge

Challenge

“This Christmas, don’t just display the card—deliver the message.”

- Share encouragement
- Speak hope
- Reflect Christ in everyday moments

Closing Prayer

“Lord, thank You for sending Jesus—Your perfect message of love. Help us not to miss the meaning of Christmas, and help us to be living letters of Your grace to others. Write Your love on our hearts and send us out with joy. Amen.”