**Gift Tags**

*The gift of Christmas is given to WHOM?*

**PREP**

Wrap a large present box. Place a large blank gift tag on it. If your group is large, create a HUGE gift tag by cutting two corners off of a piece of cardstock, and write “TO:” on it with a sharpie. Place the present on the stage.

Place a sharpie near the present on the stage.

Mark a Bible at Romans 5:10.

**DEMONSTRATION**

Show the students the large wrapped present box. Say, “Imagine that, in this present, you have placed something of yours that is very, very, very valuable. In fact, imagine that the most valuable thing that you have is in this box. (Pause for students to think) What have you ‘placed’ in this box?” Allow students to respond.

Say, “For me, I’d have to imagine my very life (or “my child” if you have one) is in this box. Now comes the most important part of this gift beside the gift itself – the gift tag (show the gift tag). This tag says who is going to be receiving our very, very, very valuable item. Think for a minute about whose name you would write on the gift tag if the present was your valuable item while I really write on my gift tag.” Write on the gift tag with the sharpie, but do it in such a way that the students cannot see what you have written. Write “MY ENEMY” on the gift tag.

Ask, “OK. I’ve written something on my gift tag. What would YOU have written?” Take responses.

**OBJECT LESSON**

Say, “On Christmas, God sent a gift of incredible value! He sent His Son, Jesus. And who did He send this awesome gift to? (Reveal what you wrote on the gift tag “MY ENEMY”) It’s an amazing idea—to take something of INCREDIBLE value, and then give it to your enemy. But that’s what God did. Let’s think about that for a minute. Think about what you imagined putting in this box, and now imagine giving it to an enemy—someone who is living his/her life to be AGAINST you, someone who is not your friend. In fact, this person is that exact OPPOSITE of a friend. What do you think about giving such a valuable gift to someone like that?” Take responses, and then have your students look up Romans 5:10, which explains that we were, in fact, God’s enemy, before he reconciled us to Himself. Say, “God looked at people on Earth who were living their lives as enemies of Him—people who deserved to go to Hell for the sins in their lives—people like you and me. We deserved death (Romans 6:23), but what did God give us? (pause) AN AMAZING, INCREDIBLE gift. He sent His son, Jesus, to His enemies, to us. When Jesus grew up, he was murdered by humans. But Jesus allowed this to happen as part of His gift to us. He died so that we could be forgiven of our sins. And He did all this so that we would no longer be God’s enemies, but we could become friends of God, and spend forever with Him in Heaven.”

Lead your students in a salvation response.

**WRAP UP**

Say, “This Christmas when you see a present, think of the ultimate gift that was given on the first Christmas. And think about the AMAZING love that God has for us, that He would give us such an incredible gift even when we were His enemy.”