

## The Best Christmas Gift

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### **Introduction:**

Hey everyone! I am blown away by your generosity, dedication, and hard work. The work you are doing today is HUUUUUGE! In fact, we are a part of an incredible opportunity to make Christmas special for kids all around the world!

In fact, let's play a game that is all about how awesome Operation Christmas Child is.

**Game:** How Well Do You Know The Boxes

### **Transition:**

Tonight, I want to talk to you about something that's on all our minds as the holidays approach, Christmas. And yes, I know Christmas is months away.

Take a minute to turn to someone next to you and tell them what you love about Christmas.

I love Christmas! I love the lights, the music, the movies, and yes, the presents. I love buying them, wrapping them, and giving them. Ok ok, I also love opening them!

Let me ask you a question, "What was your favorite Christmas gift of all time?"

Take a few minutes to share with the people around you. What was it? When was it? Who gave it to you?

### **My Favorite Gift** (blank slide for you to add yours):

I remember mine. It was 1979, I was six years old, and all I wanted was the Star Wars 12" Boba Fett. It had come out the year before, but I really hoped this was my year. It was literally the only thing I had asked for. I didn't just ask; I cut it out of the Sears Wish-book and taped it to the refrigerator. Not only did I show my parents every time we went to Kmart, but I held it in my hands and stared at it until it was time to go. I'm not proud of it, but I actually prayed for it.

Well, Christmas morning came, and I immediately began to scan the packages to see if any of them would be a possible match for the dimensions of the box that I had memorized.

We couldn't touch a gift until it was our turn, and we certainly couldn't touch gifts while my dad read the Christmas story. But they couldn't keep me from intently examining them from the couch.

Gift after gift, my disappointment grew. I knew I needed socks and underwear, but what I wanted was Boba Fett.

Finally, I opened the last gift, and while I had several new Star Wars toys, the 12-inch Boba Fett was not one of them.

I tried to hide my disappointment, but I realize now that I did a terrible job of it. All of the gifts had been opened, and it was time to clean up. But before that started, I remember my dad asking, "Hey, is that a present behind the couch?" In a scene that feels like it's right out of "A Christmas Story," hope had been reborn.

And there, behind the couch, was a rectangular box wrapped in Christmas paper. I know angles weren't singing, and I know the box wasn't glowing...but now, as a grown man, that's how I like to remember it.

I reached down and grabbed the box. And because I had held that box in my hands so many times at the store, I knew it was definitely the right size, and I knew it was definitely the right weight.

So, can you imagine if after all of that, I put the box back behind the couch and started to clean up?!?

That would be beyond insane! In fact, after all that, you would probably be mad at me and would hope my parents would be mad at me.

### **The Greatest Gift:**

But so many of us do that with the greatest gift that has ever been given over 2000 years ago: Jesus.

God sent His only Son into the world as a humble baby in a manger. This gift wasn't wrapped in fancy paper or placed under a tree or hidden behind

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