

ULTIMATE PURPOSE

*You shall call His name Jesus,
for He will save His people from their sins. Matthew 1:21*

STATED GOAL

The Father has sent His Son to be the Savior of the world. I John 4:14

_____	Prophecies	Isaiah 53:10-12, Daniel 9:24-25, Zechariah 12:10-13:1
	Real-time Introductions	Luke 1:76-79, 2:29-32
_____	Himself	Matthew 17:22-23, 20:28; Luke 19:9-10

THE NECESSARY WORK

Throughout the Hebrew Bible, the word 'servant' is used in prophecies about Jesus, a noun derived from the verb "avadh" which means to work. Jesus was a working man. Robert Duncan Culver

Death	Matthew 27:32-56, Mark 15:21-41, Luke 23:26-48, John 19:16-30
Burial	Matthew 27:57-66, Mark 15:42-47, Luke 23:50-56, John 19:38-42
Resurrection	Matthew 28:1-10, Mark 16:1-8 Luke 24:1-12, John 20:1-18

ONGOING RAMIFICATION

A congruent life (one in harmony with God's ways) is the secret of naturalness in communication. And naturalness is the secret of attracting rather than repelling with our witness. Jim Petersen

_____	Romans 10:9-13
_____	Acts 1:8, Romans 10:14-15, Matthew 28:19-20



GIFT EXERCISE

Jesus came as a baby at Christmas so He could become the Savior as a man. After He accomplished that goal, He left the mission in our hands, so to speak. He chooses to use flawed people like us to spread the Good News of His salvation.

How do you respond to the idea of “sharing” the gospel? Do you feel hope and energy about that? Or do you feel fear? Guilt? Apathy? Take those feelings to God and ask Him to give you His perspective on *your* involvement in His mission. What does that look like for you—with your personality, your strengths, your limitations?

Take time to think through—and maybe even write down—your personal testimony of faith in Jesus and the difference He makes in your life. That’s what being a witness is—telling what you have experienced. That’s not so hard. Now, share that testimony with someone else:

- Think of someone you want to share the Good News with.
- Think of the best way to give your testimony to that person. It may be in person. It may be over Skype or Google Hangout or Facetime. It may be writing a letter or an email. What would it look like on Twitter or Instagram?
- Pray and ask God to prepare the way for the Good News to be heard—*really* heard. And pray for your own heart, that you will not attach yourself to the results. Saving people is God’s part. Sharing the Good News is your part.
- Share your testimony with the person. Offer the truth of Jesus in the context of your life and experience. Invite him/her to ask questions.

Think of 2015 in terms of *your* ultimate purpose. How can you incorporate sharing the truth about Jesus into your life this year in a way that is most natural and exciting for you?

Send stories of your GIFT EXERCISE experiences from any of the weeks to giftstory@nhcconline.com.

JESUS CHRIST
GIFT OF
CHRISTMAS