

## Discussion Questions:

1. When something good happens to us, who normally receives the credit?
2. Why do we want to blame God for problems, but take the credit for anything good?
3. Do you normally view God as generous and giving? Why or why not?
4. Why do we sometimes choose inferior “gifts” over God’s good gifts?
5. Why did you choose to accept Christ? When you think about that decision, how do you normally describe it? Who receives the credit for that decision?
6. How does your thinking about the nature of God need to change based on these verses?

## Better than Santa Claus

### **James 1:16-18**

When we blame God for temptation, we deceive ourselves. We also deceive ourselves when we don’t give God the credit for every good thing we have. Yet, we have the sinful tendency to blame Him for bad things, and give ourselves the credit for good things. James sets the record straight: bad things come from within us; good things come down as gifts from the Father above.

#### 1. The Greatest Giver

God is the greatest giver; no one, not even Santa Claus, compares to Him. In fact, God is the one responsible for every good gift we receive. By His nature, He is generous and giving. God is often portrayed wrongly as angry or unhappy, but God is a loving and gracious God who enjoys lavishing good gifts on His children. He is not capricious or moody; He regularly gives these precious gifts to His own.

#### 2. The Greatest Gift

The Father’s greatest gift was choosing to implant new life within each one of His own. Salvation is not the result of us finally figuring things out, but it is the result of God’s sovereign decision. Through the message of new life, He chose to remove the blinding effects of sin and draw us to the Light of the world. We do not believe because of something in us, we believe because God worked effectively within us.