

UGLY Christmas SWEATER

UGLY THOUGHTS

Philippians 4:4-8 / Luke 2:8-11

December 1, 2024—Nate Marsh

1. REWIRING OUR _____.

- Philippians 4:4-7
- Philippians 4:8

2. ONE-TRACK _____.

- Luke 2:8-11
- “If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent us an educator. If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent us a scientist. God would have sent us an economist if our greatest need had been money. God would have sent us an entertainer if our greatest need had been pleasure. But our greatest need was forgiveness, so God sent us a Savior.” – unknown.
- Psalm 103:2

3. JOY DOES NOT PRECEDE _____, GRATITUDE PRECEDES JOY

- We need to make it a sacred practice within our lives to remind ourselves of God’s blessings.
- During this Christmas season, let’s remember the necessity to pause, ponder, and proclaim the reason for the season.

WEEKLY APPLICATION POINT:

Let’s be intentional. Journal, list, draw, or pray over God’s blessings in your life this week. As we recall how blessed we are, let’s remember that **the greatest blessing** is to be a blessing to others.

GROWTH QUESTIONS:

1. Why is figuring out our ugly thoughts key to adjusting other behaviors?
2. There were some people in the Christmas story who had ugly thoughts. Who can you name? Need a starting place? (begin with King Harrod)
3. Why is remembering God's blessings vital to our spiritual growth?
4. God is blessing our lives all the time. What habits do we get into that keep us from seeing those blessings?
5. Pastor Nate said in the weekly application point, "The greatest blessing is to be a blessing to others." What intentional steps can you take this week to bless those around you?