

# The Night Before...

**Welcome to Crossroads.** We design our services to speak to skeptics, newcomers, theologians, and you—we're glad you're here.

## Main Services

Thursdays: 7:00PM

Sundays: 8:30, 10:00, & 11:30AM

## Kidz City (Newborn-4th grade)

Thursdays: 7:00PM

Sundays: 8:30, 10:00, & 11:30AM

Where: Check-In at Lobby

## Pre-Teen Ministry (5th-6th grade)

Thursdays: 7:00PM

Sundays: 10:00 & 11:30AM

Where: Upstairs, Room 205

## Crossroads Student Ministries

### Jr. High (7th-8th grade)

Sundays: 10:00AM, Thursdays: 6:00PM

Where: Upstairs, Room 208

### High School (9th-12th grade)

Sundays: 11:30AM, Thursdays: 6:00PM

Where: Upstairs, Room 208

## Special Needs Ministry

Sundays: 11:30AM Only

Where: Room 113

## Celebrate Recovery

Wednesdays: 6:30PM

Where: Upstairs, Room 208

## Crossroads Prayer Hotline

Call 209.624.0080

## Crossroads Church App!

Stay connected. Download the app now.  
[crossroadsgrace.org/app](http://crossroadsgrace.org/app)



 **CROSSROADS  
GRACE** Community Church  
209.239.5566

## It Starts Here

Need prayer? New to Jesus? Meet by the cross, to the right of the stage, and a team member will assist you.

## New to Crossroads?

If so, join us at MERGE—a place that exists exclusively for you! Meet volunteers, staff, and others that are new to the church. We'd love to buy you a cup of Nightingale coffee. We are located outside, on the upper level, through the exit doors in the loft.

## Lead Up

Dec 5 (7PM)

Communication, training, and fun for all leaders and volunteers at Crossroads. Register at [cgcc.church/leadup](http://cgcc.church/leadup)

## Christmas Eve Services

Please join us for one of our six Christmas Eve Services. Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> - 7PM; Dec 23<sup>rd</sup> - 5 & 7PM; and Dec 24<sup>th</sup> - 3, 5, & 7PM.

## Give the Gift of Serving

Serve at one of our six Christmas Eve Services  
[cgcc.church/ServeThisChristmas](http://cgcc.church/ServeThisChristmas)

## Parents' Night Out

Dec 10 (5:30-8:30PM)

Enjoy an evening without your precious kids. The kids will be well cared for with plenty of activities, crafts and games. Register at [cgcc.church/parentsnightout](http://cgcc.church/parentsnightout)

## CSM Christmas Party

Dec 15 (6PM)

Come to the student ministry party—for fun, food, and games!

For more info, go to [www.crossroadsgrace.org](http://www.crossroadsgrace.org)

# The Night Before...

## Week 1: Unaware in Rome

Rome believed in looking \_\_\_\_\_ rather than \_\_\_\_\_.

Rome believed it had \_\_\_\_\_ that it \_\_\_\_\_.

Rome believed that \_\_\_\_\_ was stronger than \_\_\_\_\_.

Power \_\_\_\_\_ but love \_\_\_\_\_.

Rome was \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_.

### Bible References:

Luke 2:1-7  
Micah 5:2  
Philippians 2:3-4  
James 1:16-17  
Romans 8:38-39

Hey!

Welcome to the weekly devotion to the “The Night Before” Series. Each devotion is meant for you to dig in more after the message and prepare your hearts further for Christmas. For this week’s devotion, let’s continue by looking at this idea of being unaware. All of us are unaware about a lot of things, just ask any wife trying to talk to her husband watching football on TV. As hard as we may try sometimes, we miss things that are right in front of us even if they are good and Godly things. So how can we miss less of these moments? To illustrate this, I want to take us out of the Christmas story for a second and actually look at a time after Jesus had resurrected. Take the time to consider these questions on your own this week or around the dinner table.

### Read:

Luke 24:13-25

### Consider:

What were the factors that kept these men from recognizing Jesus? Were they avoidable?

These men were followers of Jesus yet didn’t recognize Him. How is it possible to say you know Christ and still not be able to see Him?

Jesus did several things to show himself to these men. He walked with them, ate with them, and shared the Bible with them. Of these three, which one would best help you become more aware of Jesus in your life? In other words, do you connect with Jesus through actions, fellowship, or academic?

Unawareness is usually a product of being distracted, inattentive, or lazy. Of these three, which is most likely to cause you to become unaware to what God has for you in your life?

### Act:

The Bible says that these men’s hearts began to burn within them as Jesus talked to them about the Bible. This was more than heartburn, but more of an excitement about what they had learned with a desire to know more. It also caused them to do something with what they heard as they went directly back to Jerusalem where they should have been all along This week, take time to read your Bible and become aware of what God’s desires are. Consider reading all of Luke 24 and also Luke 10:25-37. Then take the next step and act on what God is calling you to do. Don’t wait for someone else to do something when you can do it. Allow yourself to become more aware of God than ever before this Christmas, and see how your life comes alive and how your heart burns within you too.

# Because of you, Crossroads

## Thanksgiving Meals:

70 families received a meal with all the fixings to their homes, and 11 turkeys were given to our local food bank.

*Just a few comments from personal experiences:*

- We delivered our meal and it went great ... this was a wonderful experience!
- At the end of today, our hearts were full with joy. All the meals given to us have been delivered ... thanks for the opportunity.
- We delivered the dinner this afternoon after church. Thank you and the church for giving us the opportunity to give a holiday meal to a family in need.
- They were very thankful and gracious. Thank you for the opportunity to help.
- Meal was delivered and everything went well!! It was such a blessing to be a part of this opportunity! We prayed with her before leaving. Thanks!
- My family and I delivered to an older, thankful couple, and THEY blessed US. This was a first try for us, and our hearts are full. Thank you for giving us this opportunity to help others.
- Daniel called the church office wanting to thank whoever delivered his meal. He couldn't be there due to a daughter's doctor appointment, but he was sooooo grateful.

## Turkey Bowl on Thanksgiving morning:

The Gospel was clearly shared at Half Time as our primary goal for this outreach. 459 players, 40 teams, 20 fields, 44 refs, 67 volunteers, \$1441 to Love INC, a few minor injuries, one Lord Jesus, no fights—Great day!

## Opportunity: Christmas Presents Outreach

We have 16 families from a local grade school or a shelter to provide Christmas presents for their children (but to be given from the parents), and warm clothing for 200 men at Gospel Center Rescue Mission in Stockton.

Visit [Crossroadsgrace.org/christmasoutreach](http://Crossroadsgrace.org/christmasoutreach) for information to register for presents for a child, OR for information on the clothing donations.

The entire Crossroads office staff recently toured the facility at Gospel Center Rescue Mission in Stockton, and they've asked if we would provide warm clothing for men in their care. We are asking for only new clothing, sizes M, L and XL, suggested in black, navy and grey, sweat shirts or gloves, and socks or "throw" blankets. We hope to serve 200 men. Drop off deadline: Sun Dec 18th.

**Stop along the way this Christmas season** to engage a few strangers in simple conversations, and then ask them how you could pray for them. Simple presence, not presents.