

TAKEAWAY

Inviting Others Into Your Christmas



DESIRED OUTCOMES

- To see that Christmas is great news, always worth sharing
- To get practical about inviting others to consider Jesus at this time

INTRODUCTION

It's Christmas time again! Christmas is often a great time to talk to others about our faith. People tend to be open to invitations to church events – and we've got a great opportunity to use them.

SHARE

What is your favourite thing about Christmas?
What do you LOVE doing each year?

READ

Isaiah 9:1-7

EXPLAIN

Isaiah 9:1-7 includes some very famous verses. However it's worth noting the wider context. This passage is part of a group of prophecies to Judah (a small nation 'broken off' from Israel at that point in time). It is a time of political uncertainty, and God goes on to talk about His judgement of the people. However, hope is found in the promise of a future king who will bring everlasting good leadership to the nation and even the world.

DISCUSS

Isaiah's announcement about a coming baby describes Him in 4 ways:
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace

What do each of these titles really mean? Think about them one at a time. What do they tell us about what Jesus is like? Have you encountered Jesus as these things in your real-life experience?

Think of and name 2-3 people you know who are not followers of Jesus. What, of the four things, would you like them to know about Him right now, and why? Make sure to pray about your answers at the end.

What plans do you have for the Christmas period? Who could you invite to share something with you? (It could be a church thing or something social/fun) How can you, with your contacts, friends and families, best share Jesus with someone this Christmas?

PRAY

1 Timothy 2:1,4&5 says : *"First of all, I ask you to pray for everyone. God wants everyone to be saved and to know the whole truth, which is, 'There is only one God and Christ Jesus is the only one who can bring us to God.'"* (NLT). Pray for the people discussed and for those who you'd like to invite into your Christmas.

TRY OUT

- Commit to pray for five people from your neighbourhood, leisure activities, family, work or studies over advent. That they will come to seriously consider what it means to know Jesus personally. You may find it helpful to use Agapé's [Five In Focus: Prayer Cards](#).

- Give The Biscuit Trail a go as a group or with a friend – a resource that helps Christians think through what they could do (and perhaps are already doing) to help others discover Jesus. (Available from the church office).
- Read over some of the conversation starts below, or write your own. Try them out with friends and colleagues to help go deeper in your conversations and share your faith.

CONVERSATION STARTERS AT CHRISTMAS

Question ideas from Caz and Geoff Shave (Agapé) to help you start or go deeper in your conversations with others

- What is your favourite Christmas tradition? and why?
 - What's your favourite Christmas song
 - What are you looking forward to most about Christmas?
 - Many movies, songs, and stories refer to the 'Christmas spirit'. What do you think it means?
 - What does Christmas mean to you?
 - Why do you / we celebrate Christmas?
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- What do you think the original Christmas day was like?
 - What part of the Christmas story do you like the most / most intrigues you?
 - Have you ever read the Christmas story in the Bible? Would you like to?
 - Have you ever wondered what the word Immanuel means? (God with us)
 - Of all the figures in the Nativity story, who do you identify with the most?
 - Did you know that Jesus' birth was prophesied 700 years before he was born? Do you want to know what was said about him?
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- Why do you think we celebrate the birth of Jesus?
 - How does Jesus' birth impact your life?
 - What is the best gift you have ever received?
 - Why do you think we give gifts at Christmas?
 - Do you see Jesus as a gift?
 - The Christmas story: The Magi/wise men travelled a huge distance to see Jesus. Why? Why do so many people follow him today? (Over 2.4 billion)
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- How do you find decision-making around Christmas?
 - Who or what helps you make decisions in your life? Where do you get your guidance?
 - Some people look to the Bible for guidance. Did you know Bible sales have nearly doubled in the past six years? (And the You Version Bible app recently reached 1 billion downloads). Have you ever considered looking at the Bible for help?
 - Jesus grew up to be a teacher many followed, what do you think was his main message?
 - Why do you think Jesus, as God became a man?
 - AI generated: *"If it were possible, would you want a God who is not just 'out there' but is actually 'with us' in our daily lives? What do you imagine that would be like?"*