

WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

Joy to the World (Unspeakable Joy), Joy, For Unto Us a Child is Born/Open the Eyes of my Heart, God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen, King of Kings, Hark the Herald

WELCOME

How do you celebrate Christmas? What do you do to make it special or extraordinary? Share with the group.

WORD

ISAIAH 9:6-7

⁶For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this.

LUKE 2:10-12

¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; ¹¹for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Read Luke 2 and John 1:1-18

Our message series, "Extraordinary," is about ordinary people from the Scriptures whom God used extraordinarily because of Him being the extraordinary God. It is not just about achieving extraordinary feats, but about brokenness, for us to realize that we are nothing without God. It reminds us that we are not the center of the universe, but Jesus is.

If we look at all the characters that we studied and read every book of the Bible, they speak about Jesus. Jesus was the Extraordinary who became ordinary that we might become extraordinary. In other words, **Jesus who is too big to measure became "too small" to accept that we might become big time with Him.**

What God requires of us is to celebrate Jesus extraordinarily just like the shepherds who glorified and praised God (**Luke 2:20**) and the wise men from the East who worshipped and presented gifts fit for a king (**Matthew 2:11**). In order for us to experience an extraordinary Christmas, remember BIG:

1. THE BIG BABY

This baby was not just born, but He was **given to us**. His birth was pre-planned and prophesied (**Isaiah 9:6-7**). In **Genesis**, He was referred to as the **seed of a woman** (virgin)—for without man, He was conceived. His coming to bring salvation was **long-expected**. Though the Israelites didn't see God at work, He did not stop working. When the fullness of time came, God sent forth His Son (**Galatians 4:4**) and He is **still at work** as:

- The **Wonderful Counselor**. We don't understand what to do next. We need wisdom. He will give us something beyond any man can conceive.
- The **Mighty God**. He is our protector. He is a mighty God, willing to die and protect us.
- The **Everlasting Father**. He wants to be personally related with us and to be intimate with us. He is a Father to the fatherless.
- The **Prince of Peace**. He gives the peace that we need in life.

This is the baby who was born. One day He will make a New Heaven and New Earth and He would be the Leader and King who will bring justice and order. In the meantime, with all that's happening around us, remember Christmas. Jesus is here with us. He is Immanuel. But God is not only concerned with our lives here on earth because there is a bigger issue.

2. THE BIG ISSUE

God did not only come at the right time (**Galatians 4:4**) but because we are "flesh and blood" He took on the same nature (**Hebrews 2:14**). The Word (**John 1:1**) became flesh and dwelt among us. God who is eternal became like us mortals. God who is transcendent (above and beyond us) made Himself immanent (with us). For what? Because He wants to go through life with us.

He could have chosen to do something spectacular but He came just like how we came into the world — as a baby. God

WORD (cont'd)

wants us to understand that He truly cares and can sympathize with us in all our pain and problems.

But there is something that we do not understand — the power of death (**Hebrews 2:14**). Nobody really understands except for the One who came from heaven. So He explained to people. He wants everybody to be prepared for death.

In the story of the rich man and the poor man, Lazarus (**Luke 16:9-31**), we are presented the realities of death: We are all going to die. When we die, we are going to our assigned place and it's going to be our permanent "address" forever (**Revelation 20:10**).

There is no other way for this big issue to be solved but only through Jesus Christ. He came to destroy the devil who holds the power of death. He wants us to be freed from the fear of death. **Colossians 2:13** says that He forgave **all** our sins. Jesus took the evidence against us, nailed it on the cross, and covered it with the complete payment of His blood.

3. THE BIG GIFT

We ought to die for our sins, but **the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 6:23)**. We

cannot have eternal life apart from Jesus. Eternal life is JESUS. He became human. He revealed who God is to us. **This eternal life is Jesus Christ Himself (1 John 1:2)**. He is the big gift and we cannot have eternal life without Jesus. We may try our best to have eternal life but if we reject Jesus, we remain dead spiritually, destined for eternal punishment.

The testimony is that **God has given us eternal life and this life is in His Son (1 John 5:10)**. This is a free gift. A gift that will only be ours if we humbly accept it from God, the Giver.

OUR RESPONSE

Upon knowing these BIG truths, may our response be like Mary's in **John 11:25-26** and **John 12:3** — to be broken and spilled out for Jesus. May our life be totally His for us to be used by Him, to love Him and to obey His commandments.

For an extraordinary Christmas, God wants us to tell the world that JESUS alone is the world's hope for this season and eternity! A Blessed Merry Christmas to one and all!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. Who is Jesus to you? How will you get to know Him more this Christmas season?
2. What is that one thing you're hoping for in life? Have you given up on trusting God for it? Why or why not?
3. Do you desire to give your all to Jesus? What will you do to show that as we celebrate Christmas?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for people who have not yet encountered Jesus in a personal way. This Christmas, may you share the BIG surprise, salvation in Jesus Christ; to make someone else's Christmas extraordinary experience-wise. Let it be through words of life and love from the gospel of Jesus!

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants
- A God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends