

WEEKLY CELL GUIDE

Leader's Copy

Series -
Topic - Don't Miss Christmas! (Luke 2:1-7)

Date - 27-Dec-2020
Speaker - Ps John Koe

WELCOME [15 min]

You may want to look up the following websites for *icebreakers* suitable for your cell.

[Ice Breakers 1](#)

[Ice Breakers 2](#)

WORSHIP [15 min]

You may select songs like

1. Glorious One
2. Great is the Lord

WORD [45 min]

Spiritual Objectives

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Be reminded of the true meaning of Christmas
2. To be deliberate in reaching out to pre-believers as a cell.

Sermon Summary

Many of us celebrate Christmas but often lose sight of the true meaning of Christmas. Pastor John preaches from Luke 2:1-7 and shared the different reasons people could miss Christmas – 1) Rejection of God, 2) Ignorance of the Truth, 3) Busyness and self-preoccupation and 4) Familiarity.

Sermon Recap (Full Summary)

Many of us celebrate Christmas but often lose sight of the true meaning of Christmas. Through Christmas, we are reminded of the majestic love of our Heavenly Father - how Jesus came in flesh to save us from our sins by dying for us on the Cross; so that we may be redeemed and reconciled with Him.

Pastor John preached from Luke 2:1-7 and shared with us some observations made:

It was likely Joseph and Mary had lived with their relatives while at Bethlehem. It was unlikely that there were inns at Bethlehem as it was a small town. It was also likely that they were not rushing to give birth (like how we have understood the Christmas story to be). It was likely an extended stay and the time had come for her to give birth. Pastor John also shared that there was “no guest room available” (CSV) instead of “inn” in other translations. It was also likely to be common that people and animals lived close to each other.

Pastor John shared about the different reasons the people in Joseph and Mary's time missed Christmas

- 1) Rejection of God (against Christianity, the gospel)

- The people may have despised Joseph and Mary (unwed pregnancy) if they had not known about the divine conception of Christ. In the same way, people may not know about Christ and may reject Him in their hearts. We need to keep them in prayer so that they will come to know Christ.
- 2) Ignorance of the Truth
 - We may know the Truth but choose to ignore it.
 - 3) Busyness and self-preoccupation
 - Busyness and preoccupation may sometimes distract us from the most important thing of knowing Christ.
 - 4) Familiarity
 - We can be so familiar with the Christmas message that we lose sight of the initial awe we had of God's great love towards us.

Pastor John exhorted us not to miss Christmas and to never lose the childlike wonder we have of God.

Discussion Questions

- 1. Pastor John shares about the different reasons we may “miss Christmas”. Which of these pointers do you identify with? [15 min]**

Leader's Notes:

This is a recap and reflect question for members to share on the reasons they may miss out on the true meaning of Christmas and to also reflect on what they could do to remember God through the year.

Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving to the Next Question)

As we reflect on the true meaning of Christmas and how Jesus came as a Person to save us and reconcile us to God, let us also take time to remember how we can live in light of this reality all the days of our lives.

- 2. God intervened in human history 2000 years ago when no one expected it. What are some habits / reminders you can put in your life or in your spiritual friendships to help encourage each other to look out for God's intervention in our lives? [10 mins]**

Leader's Notes:

Like the Christmas event, many of us live our lives unaware of the various divine interventions God has made in our lives. This can be due to our hardened hearts, our ignorance, our busyness or other reasons. Sometimes, we choose to reject these interventions as well. The key posture we ought to have is to see what God is doing in our lives and to respond in a way that brings pleasure to His heart – for example, obedience, thankfulness, etc.

Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving to the Next Question)

As we take time to thank God for His goodness in our lives, let us also prayerfully remember those who have yet to know Him.

3. Are there people in your life who have yet to know God or have turned away from the faith due to various reasons? Share with the cell about 1- 2 of these pre-believing friends that matter to you and take some time to pray for them. Also, discuss as a cell how you can reach out to these individuals together (eg. organise events, outings, etc.) [10 min]

Leaders' Notes

This is a relate and response question. As a cell, you can own the outreach efforts of these individuals. The effort of the collective can be more effective! Therefore, think of ways you could reach out to these pre-believing relatives or friends, schedule it in the cell's yearly calendar and cover them in prayer.

Closing

As we take this time to remember His goodness and be encouraged to renew our commitment to follow Jesus, let us also remember His faithfulness in our lives and continue to trust Him. May we also be mindful that this may not be an easy time for fellow believers or pre-believing loved ones and friends due to their circumstances and prayerfully ask God for wisdom to be a channel of His love to those around us.

WORKS [10 min]

Let's pray:

1. Pray that:

- As believers, we will be proactive in reaching out to our pre-believing loved ones.
 - We will make time to reach out to these individuals each year as a cell.
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

No Watch Night Service

Due to government restrictions on in-person gatherings, we regret to inform that there will be NO Watch Night Service this year.

Church Vision

"A radiant disciple-making church catalysing Kingdom transformation in our communities and the nations."

Mission

We exist to make disciples who behold Christ and reveal Him.