



THE CERTAINTY OF CHRISTMAS

A COMMUNITY EVENT



The Certainty of Christmas

A Community Event

This resource is suitable for a community service, a Christmas Eve event or adaptable for an Intergenerational Church service. It is approx. 45mins long. You can lengthen it by including a few more carols.

It is based on these two verses:

- John 5:24 CEV: I tell you for certain that everyone who hears my message and has faith in the one who sent me has eternal life.
- 1 John 4:9 CEV: God showed his love for us when he sent his only Son into the world to give us life.

Beforehand:

- Choose two people to prepare the skit.
- Create nine cards (at least A3 size) with letters C H R I S T M A S on them. The letters spelling CHRIST need to be painted red, the letters MAS - paint Green.
- Place the letters that spell CHRISTMAS underneath chairs or hide in the room in an easy to find spot (or give them out to the crowd if gathered in a park).





The Certainty of Christmas—A Community Service

Arrive:

Welcome everyone as they arrive. Introduce yourself and make people feel comfortable. This may be their first church event.

Songs: (5mins)

Sing 2 - 3 songs (You could include instruments. We suggest fun and light-hearted songs to start; e.g. Jingle Bells, Joy to the World)

Large Game: Minute to Win it. (8mins)

Divide the room into 4 groups. Begin with the letter 'C'. Group one has to shout out a word about Christmas starting with 'C'. Group two then shouts their word and so on. Next, group one has to shout out a word beginning with 'H' and so on, until all the letters in CHRISTMAS have been called out. Rule: You can't say the same word as the previous group. A different person in the group must call out the word. To make it fair, change the order in which the groups go, so that a different group starts first each time. (*Watch out that the second S isn't the same as the first)

Challenge: Time how fast your gathering can complete this. Can you complete it in under a minute?





Skit: (5mins)

*See pg 6-7 for a script.

You will need two people to prepare this beforehand.

Alternatively you could use puppets.

Spelling out CHRISTMAS (12mins)

(This idea is adapted from 'Christmas Wrapped Up' by Scripture Union UK)

Say. These verses are great to remind us of the real meaning of Christmas. God loves us and that doesn't change and it's for certain. We are going to think about that some more as we spell out the letters of Christmas again.

Around the room (under chairs) are the letters that spell out the word Christmas. See if you can find **one**. Once you do hold on to it and I will call you up to the stage when we are ready for that letter.

*See pg 8-11 for full instructions for this activity

Songs: (5mins)

Suggestions:

- Away in a manger
- While Shepherds

Let's remind ourselves of what happened that first Christmas day...





The Christmas Story (5mins)

Choose one of these options to retell the whole Christmas story.

- See pg. 12 for a Nativity Poem. Choose a good presenter to prepare this beforehand. Read it, and invite some children to mime it as the poem is read.
- Show a short video that tells the story. Here are some suggestions:
 - [Christmas According to Kids](#)
 - [The Story of Christmas](#) (an animated retelling)
 - [The Christmas Story](#) (an oldie but a goodie, NZ made)

To Conclude: (5 mins)

Thank everyone for coming.

(Optional: invite them to stay for a cup of coffee and Christmas cake).

Pray a short prayer.

Sing together one song. We suggest: We wish you a Merry Christmas

*** You might like to hand out copies of the verse (see separate document) along with a lolly or candy cane.*

Certainty of Christmas Skit

(Person 1 (P1) comes on stage and sits looking gloomy.)

(Person 2 (P2) walks on stage.)

P2 Hi _____ (p1) . You don't look very happy, what's up?

P1 Oh Hi. Na, I'm not really. I was just sitting here thinking what a tough year it's been this year.

P2 Oh you mean with COVID and lockdowns and stuff?

P1 Yeah. I mean I had so many things planned, my birthday party was during lockdown so I couldn't have a big party, our athletics competitions at school, the school play - all of those things plus so much more had to be cancelled because of COVID.

P2 I know what you mean. I had a nice overseas trip planned. That didn't happen!

P1 Exactly!! So many things have been cancelled or we've had to drastically change the way we do things. You know, I'm not even sure if Christmas will happen at all this year! (sigh)

P2 What...?? No Christmas!!! What do you mean?

P1 Well my Aunty and cousins normally come home from Australia. We just love being all together - it's the best thing about Christmas. Everyone helps with the food and we have a big party. But that's not going to happen this year. And a couple of people in my family have lost their jobs, so we've decided not to give presents at all this year.

P2 Oh I see, that is tough. It will seem very different for you.

P1 Yeah, with so much uncertainty and change I can't even be bothered putting up the Christmas Tree. We may as well just cancel it altogether!

P2 Mmmm.. except I think you have forgotten about one thing.

P1 What's that?

Certainty of Christmas Skit pg2

P2 The fact that what Christmas is **really about** can't be cancelled. You see, Christmas is about remembering that God loves us. And we know **that for certain** because He showed how much He loves us by sending His son Jesus into this world. The Bible tells us exactly that: -

(Verse on PowerPoint)

God showed his love for us when he sent his only Son into the world to give us life. 1 John 4:9

P1 Yeah I guess I had forgotten that. But I love all those things about Christmas - the decorations, the presents, family being together, the food.

P2 We all love those things - And that's okay. Those things help us celebrate Christmas. But even if all those things can't happen or if we have to change the way we do them this year - the real reason we celebrate Christmas - the fact that God loves us, hasn't changed. Look at these words Jesus said.....

(Verse on PowerPoint)

I tell you for certain that everyone who hears my message and has faith in the one who sent me has eternal life. John 5:24

P2 You see, Jesus was born into this world to live among people so that we can know God through what Jesus said and did. God gives us eternal life. That's an amazing Christmas gift - don't you think?

P1 For sure, it certainly is. You know, by remembering what we **do** have because of Jesus has really helped me to look forward to Christmas day. I think I'm going to home and put up my Christmas Tree.

P2 Great. See ya later.

P1 (Leaves stage and calls out.. "Merry Christmas")

Spelling out Christmas

(Adapted from *More Christmas Wrapped up*)

You will need:

- Nine cards (at least A3 size) with letters C H R I S T M A S on them.
 - Make letters bold enough to be seen.
 - The letters spelling CHRIST - paint red.
 - The letters MAS - paint Green.
 - Hide them around room - but not too difficult to find
-
- 2 Narrators (N1 and N2) (You could lead this with one person)
 - Isaiah - Someone dressed up, and holding a scroll with Isaiah 9:6 on it.

** You may like to stop part way through this activity and sing a Christmas Carol. We suggest after the letter 'M'.

'Spelling out Christmas' Instructions:

- N1 Around the room are the letters that spell CHRISTMAS! Have a look under your chair and if you have one wave it in the air. Hold onto it until I ask you to bring it to the front. (Give people a moment to find all the letters.)
The first letter is C. If you have found the letter C can you bring that up the front.
C is for CREATION. God made a beautiful world.
- N2 Can you tell me what are some of your favourite parts of creation? (*suggestions may be, beach, pets, sunsets, bush, stars at night etc.*)
God's world is beautiful isn't it?
- N1 The next letter is H. If you have found the letter H can you bring that up the front.
H is for HEAVEN.
- N2 Imagine the angels in heaven looking down on God's world. They would see that it was beautiful, but they would also see that everything had gone terribly wrong. People have spoilt God's world and were fighting and hurting each other. It was not the way God had made it anymore. So how was God going to deal with the horrible things going on in this world?

Spelling out Christmas pg. 2

N1 It has to do with the next letter **R**. If you have found the letter R can you bring that up the front.

R is for **REMEDY** and **RESCUE**

N2 God decided he would come and rescue his people. He would take on himself all that is wrong and broken. He sent prophets to tell people what he would do.

N1 One of them was a man whose name started with **I**.
If you have found the letter I can you bring that up the front.
(Isaiah comes on stage carrying a scroll.)

I is for **ISAIAH**. We are going to read what Isaiah wrote about God's rescue plan.

Isaiah reads:

Isaiah 9:6 (NIV)
For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

(Isaiah leaves the stage)

N2 So God's rescue plan had something to do with a baby, a king who will be mighty, rule forever and bring peace.

N1 Our next letter is **S**. If you have found the letter S can you bring that up the front.
S is for **SIMEON**.

N2 Simeon is another person we read about in the Bible. He was a very old man. God had promised he would see the rescuer. He would see the baby that the prophet Isaiah spoke about hundreds of years before Simeon was born. Simeon was old, but believed God's promise and he waited, and waited and waited until

Spelling out Christmas pg 3

N1 Our next letter is **T**. If you have found the letter T can you bring that up the front.
T is for **TIME**

N2 The time was right. God said it was time to act. All of heaven were ready to proclaim the coming of this special king - the rescuer that God had promised.

N1 Our next letter is **M**. If you have found the letter M can you bring that up the front.
M is for the **MESSAGE** to **MARY**.

N2 God had a very special message for a girl named Mary and that message was that she was going to be the mother of this special baby that God had promised and that God was the Father.

We are going to stop and sing about this special baby Jesus.

Song: Silent Night

N1 Our next letter is **A**. If you have found the letter A can you bring that up the front.
A is for **ANGELS**.

N2 The Angels appeared in the sky to a bunch of shepherds out in the fields and told them the good news about Jesus' birth. The shepherds left their sheep and went to see baby Jesus for themselves. And they weren't the only ones who went to find Jesus.

N1 Our last letter is **S**. If you have found the letter S can you bring that up the front.
S is for **STAR**.

N2 A special star appeared in the sky and some wise men who lived far away saw it. They knew that it meant a special king had been born, so they decided to make the long journey to find this king. They followed the star and it led them to Jesus.

Spelling out Christmas pg 4

- N1 So here we have spelled **Christmas**. What word stands out? **CHRIST**.
Jesus Christ is the centre of Christmas; it is all about **HIM**.
****Ask the people with HIM to step forward to spell the word.**
Jesus rightly should be the centre of our celebrations.
- N2 But there were other people in the story too.
****Ask the people with **CAST** to step forward to spell the word.**
There was a large **CAST** of characters. Mary and Joseph were in the story. Isaiah, Simeon were involved as well. What about the shepherds and the wise men, they found themselves unexpectedly part of the cast as well and they were happy to be involved.
- N2 But the most amazing thing is that *all* of us are part of the **CAST** in this story too. We are part of God's great story. That's the certainty of Christmas.
This year, all around the world, we may **MISS** out on some things this Christmas
****Ask the people with **MISS** to step forward to spell the word.**
But, we don't have to **MISS** out on God's love, and we don't **MISS** out on celebrating being part of this great story. Of that we can be certain!

Nativity Poem

Verse One:

Once there was an angel
Came down to visit Mary.
She found Archangel Gabriel
really rather scary!
'Don't worry,' said the angel,
'you'll have a baby son.
Call him Jesus, if you please,
he'll be God's chosen one.'

Verse Two:

Quick! Send another angel.
Put Joseph's mind at peace!
It wasn't hard for him to guess
the baby wasn't his.
'Don't worry,' said the angel,
'the baby is God's Son.
This is the Messiah,
the prophets said would come.'

Verse Three:

At first it was one angel
who flew above the hills.
The shepherds were quite terrified,
stood frozen – very still.
'Don't worry,' said the angel,
'at what I'm going to say.
Good news I tell you! God's own Son
has just been born today.'

Verse Four:

Then many, many angels
filled the night-time sky.
'Praise God who sends his Son down from
his heavenly home on high.'
The shepherds rushed to see the child –
he was lying in the hay,
Just like they'd heard the angel say.
Christ was born today!

Verse Five:

From far away wise people
Came following a star
They came to visit Jesus
Brought precious gifts afar.
Special, smelly, precious gifts
Myrrh, frankincense, and gold
Worthy of a new born King
God with us, as foretold.

*(adapted from More Christmas Wrapped Up,
published by Scripture Union 2007)*

Romans 8:38–39

I am sure that nothing can separate us from
God's love—not life or death, not angels or
spirits, not the present or the future, and not
powers above or powers below.

Nothing in all creation can separate us from
God's love for us in Christ
Jesus our Lord!

Meri Kirihimete
Merry Christmas

Scripture Union New Zealand
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