

## 4Ws for Week 51, 18-24 Dec 2023

### WELCOME (15 minutes)

*(If there are first-time guests, begin with a round of introduction and warmly welcome the new visitors.)*

#### Suggested icebreakers:

##### 1. What's the true meaning of Christmas?

Every year, people around the world celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ on Christmas Day, observed on the 25<sup>th</sup> of December. The day and the entire season are marked by festive traditions, including Christmas carols, tree decorating, gift-giving and parties. Amidst all these celebrations, you may find yourself pondering: What is the true meaning of Christmas? Why do we uphold these Christmas traditions, and how are they connected to Jesus? Take a moment to reflect and share what Christmas means to you and your family.

##### 2. Remembering the words of Jesus

In Acts 20:35, it is written: "In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: '**It is more blessed to give than to receive.**'" Share the personal joy and blessedness you experience in giving, both to God and others.

### WORSHIP (20 minutes)

*(Encourage members to allow the Holy Spirit to minister through them by sharing words, visions, tongues and interpretations of tongues.)*

#### Suggested worship songs:

- 1) Forever - Chris Tomlin
- 2) I Stand In Awe - Hillsong

### WORD (45 minutes)

**Preacher:** Pastor Poh Wee Long

**Scripture Passage:** Matthew 1:18-25

**Sermon Title:** A Gift of Hope

#### Introduction

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ this Christmas season, let's reflect on the three gifts that God promised in 1 Corinthians 13:13: faith, hope and love—the three pillars or fundamentals of the Christian faith. Pastor Wee Long emphasized the Gift of Hope, grounded in a confident expectation of God's faithfulness.

Matthew 1:21, 23 reminds us, "...Jesus will save His people from their sins," and "they will call Him 'Immanuel' (which means 'God with us')." In the face of life's challenges, we discover hope in Jesus—the Savior who rescues us from sin, bringing light to our darkest moments.

Indeed, God's gift of hope is:

- **Hope for the Now - *It's Not Over!***
- **Hope for the Future - *There Is More!***

#### Discovery and Understanding Questions:

**Q1. What is this Gift of Hope that God wants to give us now?**

**A1.** God's gift of hope is a living one (1Pet.1:3), a hope for the now that we can have this instance. Regardless of what unfolds around us, an overflowing hope fills us as we trust in God (Rom.15:13). It's a hope where our situations don't dictate the final outcome, but rather God does. This hope is assuring because God delivers on His promises; He cannot lie (Heb.6:18), and therefore, it is neither the end nor over yet.

God's presence is a reality (Psa.116:8-9, 23:4-5), it is just that we cannot see Him with our physical eyes, but He is always around us, helping us. Jesus was sent to give us hope for the now (Lk.4:16-19). He is here to be with us and to walk with us.

**Q2. What is this future Gift of Hope that God desires to give us?**

**A2.** God's future gift of hope is an inheritance that can never perish or spoil (1 Pet.1:3-5); it is kept in heaven for us. Through our faith, God is protecting us with His power until we receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see. We hope for what we do not yet have and we wait patiently for it (Rom.8:23-25). Let us be patient and endure in hope (Rom.15:4). Take hold of it unswervingly (Heb.10:23) and be greatly encouraged, knowing that there is more (Heb.6:17-18).

**Application Questions**

*Break into smaller groups, share, pray and minister to one another.*

**Q1. In this Christmas season, what do you 'Hope' God would do for you? Share.**

**Q2. Now that we have an imperishable inheritance (1 Pet.1:3-5), how should we live our lives as witnesses for Christ? Share.**

**WORKS (15 minutes)**

*Focus on edification, equipping and evangelism.*

- 1. Build on the momentum of COL** - continue praying for your pre-believing friends/family, connect with them, and invite them to your Cell/Weekend Services.
- 2. Cell Christmas & New Year's Thanksgiving Party** – Pray and invite your pre-believing friends to join your cell/family gathering.
- 3. Christmas Services on 23 & 24 Dec** – invite and pray that your BESTs/pre-believing friends/family will receive God's gift of Christmas – Jesus Christ.
- 4. GKidz Outreach Programme "Magi's Quest"** - Pray and invite pre-believing families with children.

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