CHRISTMAS

2015

Purpose

To explore, with an intergenerational group, the wonder of God's fulfilled promise in Jesus.

Key Scripture

A child has been born for us.
We have been given a son
who will be our ruler.
His names will be
Wonderful Advisor
and Mighty God,
Eternal Father
and Prince of Peace.
His power will never end;
peace will last forever.
He will rule David's kingdom
and make it grow strong.
He will always rule
with honesty and justice.
The LORD All-Powerful
will make certain
that all of this is done.
Isaiah 9:6-7 (CEV)

Consider and Prepare

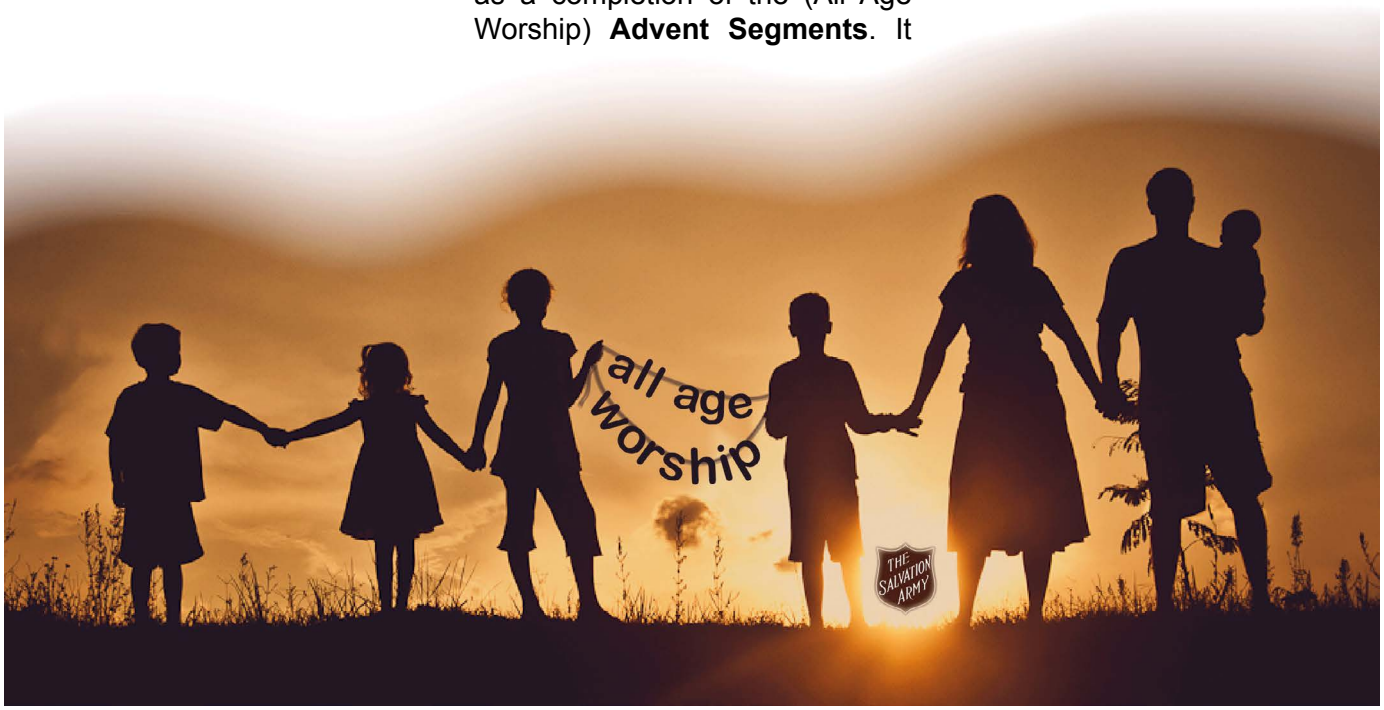
Prepare

This service has been written as a completion of the (All Age Worship) **Advent Segments**. It can be run independently of the Advent segments, but will be a stronger finish to the series, and better connections for members of the congregations.

The **Think Page** in this service is to give people a sense of their roles in life, and how Jesus' many names fit the roles that he has played and will play. It increases our awe and wonder of this God who is man – and man who is completely God- who has given himself to save the world.

Prepare

- Christmas decorations including a nativity scene – the speaker will have the baby Jesus to place on the bed of hay during the talk.
- A large fabric or paper banner with the name JESUS written in hollow/bubble letters so that people who attend the service can write inside the letters (Activity 2) and outside the letters if you need more room. You'll need marker pens, crayons (or if you want to be really messy, paint).



- Plan a place to hang the banner up – until Easter next year. Where people can see it easily when they visit your Corps.
- Bells, clappers or instruments.
- The tinsel and Christmas card, Prophetic time lines from the previous Advent Sundays.
- An “all about me” think-page for each person or family who comes to the service.
- Pens/ markers
- Items for the talk to represent different aspects of Jesus’ roles and names; crown, large question mark, an enormous hand, and a large gift-wrapped box (note: no need for anything inside unless you want to open something to share with everyone on the day).

Outline/ Key Components

Introduction	The Time Has Come
Activity 1	Pair and Share
Link	
Prayer	
Activity 2	The Roles of Jesus
Link	
Message	The Names of Jesus
Prayer	
Sharing	
Reflection	
Benediction	

Song Suggestions

Christmas Carols and songs are very suitable for this worship service. The song suggestions below link very closely with the Bible content and can be in addition or as an alternative to Christmas song/Carol song choices.

What child is this? – Carrie Underwood to the tune of “Greensleeves” https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=jfk93opiKlg

The First Noel – Anonymous https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=AdU-BrSxSjY

Everybody get ready – Colin Buchanan

Do you hear what I hear? – Regney /Baker

Jesus is no fairy-tale – Colin Buchanan

Music Videos to show during the meeting. Or songs to present

Little Drummer Boy (Pentatonix) https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=qJ_MGWio-vc

Mary Did You Know? (Pentatonix) https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=ifCWN5pJGIE

Introduction/ Call to Worship

Run the countdown. 10-1 Happy Christmas! This time everyone has bells, clappers, or other percussion instruments to make a happy racket with.

Ever since the beginning of time, God has promised to complete a plan to bring all people back to him just like we talked about in the advent series. Everyone should have a copy of the Think Page. If you would like to draw, rather than write on your think page, you can start drawing yourself with all the roles and relationships you have – so you could draw yourself as a child/parent/student/musician etc.

[If you like, you can re-enact or refer to some of the string – timeline links from session 2 of the Advent segments.] We have been watching the unfolding of God's plan… we've looked at promises, felt the anticipation of Jesus coming, and inhaled the aroma of God-with-us. We have done this all because God wants to save us from our sin. If you have come today because one of your friends invited you – an extra special welcome to you – you have friends who wanted you to know about the most wonderful gift in the world, and it's FOR YOU… So welcome – welcome everyone! Happy Christmas! God is with us!

ACTIVITY 1 – Pair and Share

Talk in a little group with the people around you- or get into pairs and share a story about someone who has kept a *good* promise that they made to you. Tell what the promise was, how it was kept and how long you had to wait for the promise to be completely fulfilled. It might even be a gift you have received today.

Ask

- How did it make you feel that someone kept their promise to you?
- What did you like best about the promise story that your partner told you?
- Are there some promises that are half-filled and still waiting to be fulfilled?

Link

It's amazing when we look over the previous weeks that we have discovered that the Christmas story really begins back with the Garden of Eden. There was a relationship broken, judgement brought down, and then, a very important promise was made. Today we pick up the Christmas story with Joseph – Jesus' dad. When Joseph was thinking over what to do about Mary expecting a baby that he had nothing to do with… *an angel from the Lord came to him in a dream. The angel said, "Joseph, the baby that Mary will have is from the Holy Spirit. Go ahead and marry her. Then after her baby is born, name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."*

So the Lord's promise came true, just as the prophet had said, "A virgin will have a baby boy, and he will be called Immanuel," which means "God is with us."

Hang on! The Name Jesus means GOD SAVES- That's the name the angel told Joseph to give the baby, and that's the name Joseph gave him… and the prophet said that the baby would be called Immanuel "God-with-us" which is true- that is Jesus' role – to be God in flesh, God on earth, God with us.

We call Jesus "the son of God" – and that is who He is. God with us – God's son, living on earth with us.

PRAYER – Ask a child to lead

Father God, Thank you for keeping your ancient promises that we see come true by sending your son. Please help us on this Christmas day to share about Jesus with those in our home, family, neighbourhood and world so they may be saved. In Jesus' name we pray this, Amen.

ACTIVITY 2 – The Roles of Jesus

Have you started filling in your all about me think-page? (*Show an example – hold up or display on PowerPoint)* name – picture and if you don't want to write, then draw yourself, all the different roles you have and the different things you do in life…

Play a song while everyone is doing this.

Suggestion: Little Drummer Boy https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=qJ_MGWio-vc – this gives 4-5 minutes to do this activity and everyone will know when it is finishing.

Unroll Jesus name banner – invite a couple of the kids/adults to come up and write what Jesus name means in the letters. Start with the two we already know… what are they? "Immanuel" – "God with us" and "God Saves".

- What roles did Jesus have in His family and community that are just like yours? *Invite people to come and write them up – or ask someone else to write for them*
- Jesus mum, Mary thought a lot about what was said about him as a baby and she saw and heard about everything he did… I wonder whether she had any idea of what her baby would do when he grew up. Even if you are not sure about things that Jesus said and did, you can listen to the words in this song and come up with some ideas

Play *"Mary, did you know"* clip https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=ifCWN5pJGIE.

Invite people to come up and write or draw the things that Jesus did. They can be from the song, or things they already know.

Link 2

This is only the start of the special roles that Jesus has. Let's look at some of the special names that Jesus has been given – and see how each name is like a promise that has been fulfilled, or is still being filled!

Activity 3 – The Names of Jesus

Read and display Isaiah 9:6-7 [Have printed in a handout/newsletter or on PowerPoint]

A child has been born for us.
We have been given a son
who will be our ruler.
His names will be
Wonderful Advisor
and Mighty God,
Eternal Father
and Prince of Peace.
His power will never end;
peace will last forever.
He will rule David's kingdom
and make it grow strong.
He will always rule
with honesty and justice.
The Lord All-Powerful
will make certain
that all of this is done.
Isaiah 9:6-7(CEV)

Talking points

- *Stand near the nativity scene to deliver the message.*
- *Place the baby Jesus on the bed of hay as you deliver the first point.*
- When Jesus was born and laid in a bed of hay because there was no room in the inn – he was beginning to fulfil the promises that God had made; in the Garden of Eden, to Abraham, to King David, and through the prophets of his people – *(Israel. Matthew 1 & 2.)*
- *Point to or pick up the Globe.*
- As God's son, Jesus has been given authority from God to rule over the world. *(Matthew 28:18.)*
- *Point to or pick up the 'question mark'.*
- Jesus is wise – he is our Wonderful Counsellor/ Advisor. He directs people in the right way to follow God and live lives that please God. *(Matthew 3:2, 5:1-48 and 7:21.)*
- *Point to or pick up the hand.*
- He is Mighty God – Jesus has the power to forgive sins, and to raise people from the dead *(Mark 5: 21-43 and Luke 7:11-17.)* His miracles and might show that he has the power to complete the most important and yet unseen task – to pay for our sins so that we can be forgiven!
- *Point to or pick up the cradle and the baby.*
- Eternal Father – this is the most surprising role for a baby on a bed of hay! Jesus is fully human, he had all the basic human baby needs and challenges – and yet he is also fully GOD. The Bible tells us that Jesus was present and active at the creation of the world. That before the world existed he was there. *(John 1:15, John 8:58.)* And that Jesus will be present at the end of the world and beyond… He is truly creator/ Father and He is truly Eternal.
- *Ask everyone to stand up and hold or shake hands*.
- As Prince of Peace, Jesus role is to make sure that we have peace with God! Jesus bought us peace with God through his death on the cross and rising to life again, AND Jesus also promised his followers that in this life, His Spirit would give us peace that is beyond the kind of peace the world can offer. *(John 14:27.*)

- *Point to or pick up the crown.*
- What is more wonderful than a King like this? A King who will never die. A King whose Kingdom will not ever end *(Luke 1:30-33)*. A King who you can trust to the end of your life and to the end of time.
- *Point to or pick up the wrapped gift.*
- Christmas is a sweet time, we see a new baby, we can get up close and meet the Saviour of the world. Christmas is also a time when we can see that the promises that God has made will always be kept. That God's big promises will be completed. We can trust Him to keep and finish His promises to us!

Prayer – Ask a child to lead

Jesus, thank you that you are our Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace. We praise you for your brave sacrifice and ask that you would fill our hearts, minds and souls with your wisdom. And that as we understand more about who you are, this wonder will spill out of our lives into the lives and hearts of all our friends and family around us. In your holy name we pray this, Amen.

Link

- What new thing have you discovered about Jesus today?
- What have you been reminded of in a fresh new way?

Reflection

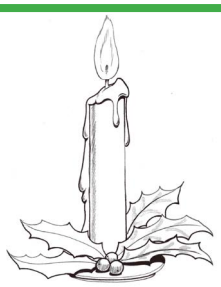
- What am I going to do about what I have discovered?
- Who am I going to tell in the next 24 hours?

Benediction

So here we are again at Christmas, remembering the arrival of our tiny but mighty saviour; the way God has kept his promises; the way we know that all God said and promised will be fulfilled in his time. All this because God wanted to save us from our sin. So Happy Christmas from all of us! God bless you as you celebrate! God is with us – God is with each of us! Share that good news today. Draw yourself, your family and your friends.

CHRISTMAS 2015 – THINK PAGE

1. Draw yourself, your family and your friends







2. My name is: _____

3. My name means: _____



4. Roles I have in my life: (circle all that apply)
   - Son/daughter
   - Niece/nephew
   - Aunt/uncle
   - Mum/dad
   - Brother/sister/step /foster/adopted/embraced
   - Grandmother/Grandfather
   - Mentor/friend
   - Boss/worker
   - Student/teacher
   - Coach/player/umpire
   - Team-member / Leader
   - Musician/dancer/artist
   - Geek/crafter/writer / blogger / gamer
   - Child of God/ saved/ looking for God
   - Others







