

A Christmas talk (short version) Luke 2: 8-18



Aim

To engage all our senses in being amazed that Jesus really came to earth as our Saviour, that we might know and see and love Him because He is real to us.

You will need:

- A warm Christmas living room scene set up at the front with fireplace with stockings hanging, tree with lights, garland on the fireplace, rug, armchair and plug in fire.
- Screen set up on the top of the fireplace ready to play the introductory video, 2 slides of Luke 2:8-12, Christmas tree pictures, a slide of Luke 2:13-18 and Christmas song lyrics
- Mince pies and 2 volunteers for the Mince Pie Taste Challenge
- Feel box with items to place inside, and 2 volunteers

INTRO - Play Amazon "can you feel it" video on the TV or Faith in Kids '#ChristmasFeels' video

WELCOME GUYS!! Who's come ready to get their Christmas on?? To get themselves in the Christmas mood!?!? Well it's time to build those Christmas feels as we, play the music.... Band play short section of a carol - And light the lights on Christmas!! - Count me down to light up our tree - 321 - light the tree in the living room scene.

Tonight we are going to ramp up those Christmas feels - you can smell our Christmas hot fruit punch - the Yankee Candle you can drink! The twinkling lights are lit around our Christmas market - now it's time to taste the goodness, and feel the brilliance of Christmas...

TASTE

Now I don't know whether you put out a mince pie as a treat for any Christmas Eve visitors to your home... if you do- it would be good to know which one is the best to leave out - so I have devised a double blind scientific trial! We can see if Good Housekeeping magazine was really right in their choice of the best mince pie - I have a very experienced mince pie eater here-COME ON DOWN [Name of Volunteer Adult & child] ... As I said, this is a double blind taste test! blindfold volunteers twice

OK - show M&S box to the congregation - Mince Pie A. What do you think of that one? Now for Mince pie B- show Aldi box to the congregation.... Can you tell us which is the best mince pie? DRUM ROLL!! Who'd have thought it!!!

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Christmas does taste wonderful – mince pies, mulled wine, pigs in blankets, sprouts!! – it's so much goodness, we struggle to take it all in... The good news of a Saviour come to Earth at Christmas is such good news, we want to spend some time tonight tasting, seeing, feeling, and taking in the goodness of God together so we are as full of the good news of Christmas as we will be full of dinner on Christmas Day!

To help us start to do that - we're going to sing a carol...

CAROL 1

SEE & HEAR

The next stop in our Christmas feels is the sights and sounds of Christmas – we love our twinkling lights – look around you, who knew [Name of church] could feel so cosy?! Let me show you some Christmas trees that some of you may recognise... show pictures from social media of tree shots posted by some of the congregation or stock photos ... BUT the one that ACTUALLY lights up the whole street is this one! Check this out!! Picture of the most dazzling Christmas lights display you can find

They obviously took inspiration from the very first Christmas – did you know that the Bible tells us that when Jesus was born as a baby – the heavens put on the most amazing light show- God's glory filling the heavens- because God's Saviour was coming to Earth!! But that wasn't all – check it out – Dr Luke writes his account of the events for us, and this is what he says...

SHOW LUKE 2:8-12 and read it / get a child to read it out.

There was lights, action, and singing- as God announced His good news to scruffy night shift shepherds out on a hillside. Just in case you missed that it was good news for ALL, FOR EVERYONE!! He makes sure the people who usually get left out are the first to know! And just in case you weren't sure if this news was good, heaven's finest gospel choir gets their groove on – see it, hear it, this is good news FOR US!! We are included in that ALL PEOPLE. God is sending us a Saviour – God says I need saving, God says you need saving. You might think you are doing OK on your own, but God says differently – He says you need a Saviour. Just in case you think this is a distant comment of disapproval behind your back (like "She needs to lose weight" or "Why doesn't she sort her hair out?") this is God announcing with JOY – You need a saviour and I'm sending one!! Not just anyone – my son!! This is no distant comment of disapproval, this is great and joyful love in action - God is giving you His son as your saviour – He must really know that you need Him and want you to know Him.

A Saviour for us - How wonderful!! Speaking of which - it's time for us to sing another carol classic - are you ready for the carol where we all get to go a little crazy....

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You know how we sing "o come let us adore Him" - in a baby whisper. Then we sing - "O come let us adore Him" - like normal people... then, we lose our minds, and scream like nutters

"O COME LET US ADORE HIM" - and pretend this is normal behaviour!!! Well let's give it a go, and see if we can give them angels a run for their money!!

SING - O Come all ye faithful

OK Well done you crazy loons! Last one!!

TOUCH

I have my final feels of Christmas challenge here - in this box. I have hidden a regular Christmas item - and I am going to ask [Volunteer adult and child] to come and feel the item in the box and tell me what it is.

- Box 1 Christmas tree branch (no home is complete without it)
- Box 2 Christmas pudding (finishes off a Christmas dinner)
- Box 3 Goose fat (the best roast potatoes)

Well there we have it, some classic Christmas feels!!! Let me show you some even more authentic Christmas feels in the next bit of Luke's story.

SHOW LUKE 2:13-18 and read it / get a child to read it out.

When the shepherds heard the news they ran down from the hills, and through the streets of the town, until they found the place - the animal shelter - where the baby was. Their rough working hands reached across scratchy straw to touch the head of a real live baby, wrapped tightly in rags, lying in a trough. He was really here - this was really happening! God has come to earth to bring us joy, so that we can know and love this Saviour he has sent.

When the good news of who He is and why He has come fills us and amazes us we will want to adore Him and celebrate Him this Christmas time. Is Jesus as real to you as He was to those shepherds? They saw Him and couldn't stop talking about Him and thanking God for the Saviour He had sent them. Come in faith to touch this baby so that this amazing Saviour can change the way you feel this Christmas!

PRAY

Please stay, chat, soak up the feels, and take home a copy of Luke's gospel to get to know the one who claims to be the Saviour you need.

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