

## 4Ws for Week 52, 25-31 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. Charades – ‘Acts of love’ Edition:

Since it’s Christmas, we will be playing a special edition of charades that focuses on acts of kindness. Prepare the following phrases on small cards or pieces of paper to be picked by someone. The one who selects a card or piece of paper will be tasked with acting out the kindness written on it. The rest of the group will try to guess what act of kindness it is.

Acts of kindness you can use (but not limited to): helping your neighbor water their plants, holding the door open, or affirming a friend.

##### 2. Goodbye 2023, Hello 2024:

As we come to the close of 2023, take time to reflect and share the following:

- How has 2023 been for you?
- In what ways have you grown in your love for Jesus?
- How have you shown love to others?
- What is one lesson you wish to carry into 2024?

### 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) Praise – Elevation Worship
- 2) I Worship You Almighty God – Don Moen

### WORD (45 minutes)

**Preacher:** Senior Pastor Daniel Khong

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

**Sermon Title:** A Gift of Love

#### Introduction

At last weekend’s Christmas worship services, we concluded the series on the three things that will last forever: God’s gift of Faith, God’s gift of Hope, and, finally, the greatest gift of all – the Gift of Love. The exact point of Christmas is all about how God’s love was demonstrated to us through the giving of His one and only Son – Jesus. Jesus is the reason for the season.

Gifts always communicate the extent of the giver’s love for the recipient. Likewise, through God’s gift of love we learn:

- 1) God knows us
- 2) God cares for us

#### Discovery and Understanding Questions:

**Q1. How does the gift of Jesus demonstrate that God knows us?**

**A1.** God is a personal God, providing us with gifts that He knows are precisely what we need and what is best for us. The gift of Jesus to the world addresses exactly what the world needs – redemption and salvation.

Jesus isn't an unwanted or valueless gift; instead, He is the ultimate expression of love to all mankind. Jesus is the hero we need, despite our undeserving nature. Such is the profound love of God.

**Q2. How can I be certain that God truly cares and loves me?**

**A2.** In the story of Jesus' birth, God consistently showed His love, sending an angel to explain to Joseph and guiding the Magi to worship Jesus through the sign of a star.

During tough times when our situations seem bleak and directionless, remember that Jesus was sent to die on the cross for a purpose – in our place. God wouldn't sacrifice His one and only Son for trivial reasons. Similarly, He won't leave you without a way through your current situation. We must remain steadfast and trust in His unfailing love.

**Application Questions**

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

**Q1. In what ways has God shown that He knows you and has provided for your every need?**

**Q2. Have you ever felt abandoned by God? If so, what do you believe is contributing to that feeling?**

**WORKS (15 minutes)**

Focus on *edification, equipping and evangelism*.

- 1. Build on the momentum of COL/Christmas Services** - continue praying for your pre-believing friends and family, connect with them, and invite them to your Cell and Weekend Services.
- 2. New Year's Thanksgiving Party** – Pray and invite your pre-believing friends to join your cell or family gathering.
- 3. Consolidation of new believers** – Diligently pray for and reach out to your friends and family who have decided to receive Jesus as their Lord and Saviour, guiding and helping them grow in the faith.

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