

Christmas 2025 Series Break-up

Purpose of the Series: To help us at Christmas to reflect on the significance of the incarnation so that Christians might respond in awe and thanksgiving and so that non-Christians might accept the invitation to learn more about Jesus.

Evangelistic Next Steps: Invitation to come to our December/January gatherings as we continue looking at John's gospel.

Marketing Title of Series: Christmas: Deeper than you think

Series Champion: Paul Hallam



Talk No.	Preachers <i>(note: Master is the Google Drive Version)</i>	Passage	Reading	Talk Title <i>(marketing friendly)</i>	Talk Topic/Focus/Purpose	Comment/Outline	Gathering Googly <i>(feature/consideration)</i>
0. Sat 13/12 Reflective Christmas	BL6.30pm: NA	John 16:16-33	Reading 1 - Psalm 86 Reading 2 - John 16:16-33	Deeper Than You Think: The Gift of Comfort	Central Theme: Jesus promises a peace that turns grief to joy and in the process gives us hope. <i>Purpose: I want the listener to be comforted - that while we may sit in grief now, to know that there is a time coming in Jesus when grief will be turned to joy</i>	Song suggestions: Prayer Points to include: - Pray for those who are grieving and those who know loss more deeply than most.	
1. Sun 14/12 PRE-CHRISTMAS Christians Christmas	GB9: TC BL10:30: TC BL4:30: TC MR9: NL MR Kids Spot: Vincent W GB10:30: NL GBam Kids Spot: RC GB6: NL	Focus on John 1:1-4	Reading 1 - Colossians 1:15-23 Reading 2 - John 1:1-18	Deeper Than You Think: Why We Celebrate	Central Theme: Jesus Christ the WORD was God. He is supremely great- he is the eternal, divine creator, who has taken on created flesh. <i>Purpose: I want the listener to be reminded of Jesus' greatness and inspired to worship and proclaim him this Christmas.</i>	Song Suggestions (Pick 1 or 2): ● All Glory Be To Christ ● Behold Him ● How Great Is Our God ● King of Kings Prayer Points to include: - Give thanks for Tim and Susannah Chan (sending to West Tamworth) - Give thanks for Kids Church leaders	GB9am & BL10.30am - Sending Tim and Susannah Chan GB - Kids Church End of year celebration GB9am - Junior Band & BFast (after gathering)

							BL - Thankyou and sending Lunch for Tim and Susannah Chan
2. Sun 21/12 PRE-CHRISTMAS Christians Christmas	GB9: DSw BL10:30: DSw GB6: DSw MR9: KDN MR Kids Spot: Vincent W GB10:30: KDN GBam Kids Spot: Lindeback Family	Focus on John 1:12-13	Reading 1 - Ephesians 1:3-14 Reading 2 - John 1:1-18	Deeper Than You Think: Why We Spread Joy	<i>NOTE: School Holidays– short (15 mins), sharp, visual and interactive!</i> Central Theme: The message of Jesus is supremely great- when people believe in him, they become children of God. <i>Purpose: I want the listener to be inspired to proclaim the great gospel that is powerful to transform people from being children of wrath to children of God.</i>	Song Suggestions (Pick 1 or 2): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation Awaits • Grace Alone • His Mercy is More • King of Kings • No Other Name • Only a Holy God • There Is One Gospel Prayer Points to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For local churches proclaiming Jesus at Christmas - Opportunity and willingness to invite folk to Christmas - Give thanks for those leaving LMAP in 2026 who have served Jesus alongside us. 	No Kids Church - Christmas Activity Packs (MR/GBam)
3. Sun 21/12 Classic Carols 4.30pm @ BL Mon 22/12 Carols Extravaganza 6.30pm @ GB	Classic Carols: PH Carols Extravaganza: PH	Focus on John 1:14	Reading 1 - Matt 1:18-25 Reading 2 - John 1:1-18	Deeper Than You Think: An Invitation Home	<i>NOTE: Carols– short (10 mins), sharp, visual and interactive!</i> Central Theme: (Focus on v12-14). In the birth of Jesus, the eternal God came among us to bring us back into his family. <i>Purpose: EVANGELISTIC: I want the non-Christian listener to consider the invitation to personally receive Jesus. EDIFICATION: I want the Christian listener to ponder the incredible truth that God became incarnate in Jesus for our salvation.</i>	Song Suggestions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hark the Herald Angels Sing • O Come, O Come Emmanuel Prayer Points to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Retailers working hard a Christmas - Emergency Services Personnel 	Christmas Kids Gift packs Christmas Chocs on the door

4. Wed 24/12 Christmas Eve 11pm @GB	GB: NL	Focus on John 1:5-13 and then 18	Readings - Lessons Bible Readings Bible Talk Reading - John 1:1-18	Deeper Than You Think: Revealing God	<p><i>NOTE: 20 mins</i></p> <p>Central Theme: (Focus on v5-13 and 18). Jesus is the true light that reveals God to us.</p> <p><i>Purpose:</i> <i>EVANGELISTIC: I want the non-Christian listener to decide to seek God by investigating Jesus further.</i></p> <p><i>EDIFICATION: I want the Christian listener to give thanks that Jesus has shone in "the eyes of their heart" so that they know God.</i></p>	<p>Song Suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● O Come All Ye Faithful ● O Little Town of Bethlehem ● O Holy Night <p>Prayer Points to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Those who find Christmas particularly difficult due to loss/history - Armed Forces serving away from family - Persecuted Christians around the world 	Christmas Chocs on the door
5. Thurs 25/12 Christmas Day	BL9am: GBH MR9am: DSw MR Kids Spot: OB GB9am: KDN GB10.30am KDN GBam Kids Spot: RC	Focus on John 1:14-18	Reading 1 - Luke 2:1-20 Reading 2 - John 1:1-18	Deeper Than You Think: The Gift of Grace	<p><i>NOTE: Christmas Day– short (15 mins), sharp, visual and interactive!</i></p> <p>Central Theme: (Focus on v14-18). Through Jesus, God offers overflowing and endless grace to sinners that transforms our lives into eternity.</p> <p><i>Purpose:</i> <i>EVANGELISTIC: I want the non-Christian listener to stop trying to earn eternal life but to accept it as a gift of grace through Jesus.</i></p> <p><i>EDIFICATION: I want the Christian listener to rejoice in and live in God's ever-flowing and always-abundant grace.</i></p>	<p>Song Suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Joy to the World ● We Three Kings <p>Prayer Points to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Those who find Christmas particularly difficult due to loss/history - Armed Forces serving away from family - Local, State, Federal Politicians who serve and represent our electorates. 	<p>Christmas Kids Gift packs</p> <p>Christmas Chocs on the door</p>

Key: MR = LMAP Mt Riv; BL = LMAP Blaxland; GB = LMAP Glenbrook; KDN = Ken Noakes; DSw = Dave Swan; RC = Rachael Connor; Paul Hallam; NL = Nick Lindeback; GO = Gail Oakey; NA = Neil Atwood; TO = Trevor Oakley; JLav = John Lavender; JSh = Josh Schroder; OB = Olivia Bush; JB = Jared Bartlett; JE = Jake Evans; TC = Timothy Chan; GBH = Gary Haddon; AC = Andrew Cox; PC = Phil Coghlan; BCA = Bush Church Aid; MTC = Moore Theological College; CMS = Church Missionary Society; DLS = Daylight Savings; YA = Young Adults; MARS = Mountains Anglican Refugee Support; WSU = Western Sydney Uni AFES Group.

Gathering Leader & Preacher:

- Take special note of the suggestions in the 'Gathering Googly' column. This detail should be kept in mind as you lead or preach. Gathering leaders, *if scheduled into the elvanto plan*, you will need to make arrangements to incorporate this aspect into the gathering.
- Please note there is a visual Powerpoint template which we would prefer that you used so that we have some consistency across what we display (and so that we avoid some traps e.g. colours that cannot be seen, text too small, fonts too difficult, text which covers set logos, livestream split screen requirements etc.). This template exists in the 'G_Ministry (Visuals for LMAP Gatherings > 1. Gathering Visuals > 2. Slide Library (Where to look...) > Bible Talk Series Visual Templates > [this Bible Talk series Folder] - and can be emailed to you on request (admin@lmap.org.au) .

Devotion suggestion

- R.C Sproul, *The Advent of Glory - 24 Devotions for Christmas*. The Goodbook Company 2023

Commentary suggestions (for the benefit of Growth Group Leaders and Preachers):

- D.A. Carson, *The Gospel According to John*. The Pillar New Testament Commentary. 1991.
- Andreas J. Kostenberger, *John*. Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament. 2004.
- R. Kent Hughes, *John: That You May Believe*. Preaching the Word. 1999.
- Nancy Guthrie (ed.), *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus - Experiencing the Peace and Promise of Christmas*. Crossway, 2008 (especially chapters 2 and 10)
- Timothy Keller, *Hidden Christmas - the surprising truth behind the Birth of Christ*. Hodder & Stoughton, 2016. (especially Chapter 8)

Song suggestions (for the benefit of Gathering Leaders & Song Choosers):

In the Song Selections above – Josh Schroder should have been consulted as we have limited the range of songs that make up our LMAP Song list.

Band Leaders: Vincent Willard (MR9am); Michael Webb (BL10.30am); Jason Bryne (GB9am); Callum Beaton (BL4.30pm); Josh Schroder (GB6pm)

Copyright questions should be directed to Liz Thornton.

Notes *(for the benefit of preachers):*

Graphic design needs:

Sermon Series image

for:

- Gathering handout
- Website
- Facebook Group
- Instagram
- General use
- LMAPTV image
- PowerPoint Template (for gatherings) – note: the bottom right corner to be left clear for the LMAP logo