

Sanctuary First

December 2011

Theme Summary

Christmas Unwrapped

Setting the Scene

As people come into church they're given Christmas party hats and they're confronted with the Church all decorated with cheap Christmas tat.

Item	Notes
PRESENTER 1:	Tonight we're going to take some time to carefully unwrap all the clutter that seems to have gathered around the Season of Christmas.
PRESENTER 2:	Yeah we'd like to try and rediscover the core meaning of this Christmas Festival.
PRESENTER 1:	We thought it would be interesting to use the idea of a parcel and play the party game pass the parcel, however this game has a twist. Gradually we will unwrap all the things that are superfluous to Christmas and discover what really lies beneath the tinsel and the wrapping.
PRESENTER 2:	When the music stops rip off the first piece of wrapping paper and read what it says.
PRESENT UNWRAPPED	Let's have a party! Lets dance to 'Rocking Around the Christmas tree
	The music stops and the parcel continues to be passed around with different music playing in the background. The music stops and the next wrapping is peeled away.
PRESENT UNWRAPPED	Watch "Cheap Tack and Bobbles" and then discuss if we are selling Christmas short.
VIDEO:	Cheap Tack and Bobbles
DISCUSSION:	Are we selling christmas Short?

Item	Notes
PRESENT UNWRAPPED	Music starts again, using the same music found the video clip entitled "Silence.
VIDEO:	Silence Part One
PRESENT UNWRAPPED	The parcel is passed around – stops the wrapping is torn off and this is the prayer found.
PRAYER:	<p>We're all searching for more. This Christmas. Life is like pass the parcel. We tear it open Only to be disappointed The tinsel loses its shine We play the game We pass the parcel We tear another layer off Only to find it's empty There is nothing in the parcel. We grasp at sheer emptiness. We suffer in silence amidst the noise of life Disappointed, Confused, Shopping for stuff No one wants and no one really needs. We suffer in silence Facing Another Christmas messed up!</p>
PRESENT UNWRAPPED	The Music starts and the parcels is passed round again – stops "The lost generation"
VIDEO:	The Lost Generation
PRESENT UNWRAPPED	And so the parcel continues – We rip off another wrapping it says, "Homelessness in UK is increasing
VIDEO:	BAG LADY

Item	Notes
PRAYER:	<p>Lord,</p> <p>You were homeless Treated like an outcast Made to feel unwanted Even your family turned against you</p> <p>Lord,</p> <p>Tonight we prayer for those Who feel lost and alone Who feel forgotten Who have nowhere to turn.</p> <p>Lord,</p> <p>You commend those who care for the poor You identify with those who speak up for justice You stand in the protest line You mix with outcasts Turn us around So that our lives Are lived in service to others.</p>
PRESENTER 2:	<p>And so the parcel of life moves on and God brings people to our doors, to our homes, to our workplaces.</p>
PRESENT UNWRAPPED	<p>Parcel is continued to be passed music stops – Inside the wrapper paper says “the least of these”</p>
VIDEO:	<p>The Least of These</p>
PRAYER:	<p>Lord,</p> <p>Help me practice your presence Open my eyes to see Your image in the least of these your children Forgive me when I turn my eyes away Constrain me to turn again and serve The least of these.</p>

Item	Notes
PRESENTER 1:	At the heart of Christmas is the presence of Christ. The Communion Service for Christians reminds us of the daily presence of the Holy Spirit dwelling in our midst
PRESENTER 2:	Yeah its about opening the door and understanding God comes to us not in power and might but in a vulnerable child born in a manger.
VIDEO:	SILENCE Part Two
BLESSING	