



Christmas Party

 **FCBC**

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INTRODUCTION

During Christmas, we at FCBC love to throw Christmas parties where we invite our family and friends to come and experience Christmas together with us.

This year, we are excited to lead the church in a mindset change towards Christmas parties. It is not just a one-off event, but a follow-up from PraySingapore and a lead-up to Celebration of Hope in May 2019.

Therefore, we need a good plan leading towards Christmas, as well as a good follow-up process after the party.

Objectives

1. Cultivate a lifestyle of evangelism in our open cells
2. Prioritise prayer as the key strategy to winning
3. Build contacts through conversational engagement
4. Share Christ as the main focus of Christmas

Strategies

To begin, let's plan our Christmas Party with the following strategies in mind:

1. Prayer
2. Process

PRAYER STRATEGY

Prioritise prayer as the key strategy to winning.

Starting October, pray daily for divine appointments. Start off the day by praying for divine appointments and God may lead you to connect with someone unexpected.

Starting November,

- Pray over a list of potential guests at cell level, e.g., 3x3 prayer.
- Pray and believe God for the following faith goals at your Christmas Party:

No. of Guests: _____

No. of Decisions: _____

PROCESS STRATEGY

There are three parts to this strategy that will be elaborated in the next section:

1. Connect

- Reconnect with friends or connect with new contacts whom the Lord leads you to.

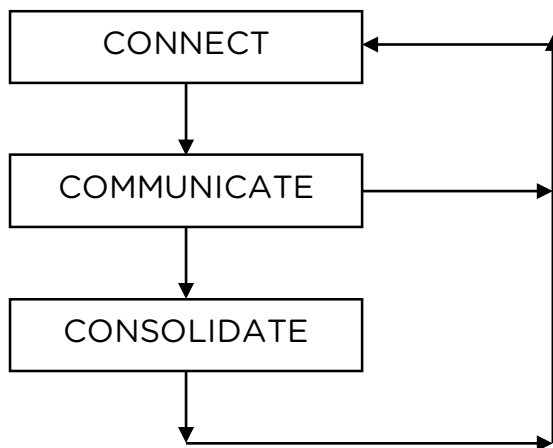
2. Communicate

- The best way to communicate the gospel message this Christmas is to celebrate together as a family of God. Celebrate Christ! Enjoy, have fun!
- If you assess that your guests aren't ready for the gospel message, you can find a right timing after the party to communicate the gospel message to them.

3. Consolidate

- Follow up with friends who made a decision to receive Jesus at the party.
- For friends who are not open to receiving Jesus yet, continue to connect with them.

This is how it works...



PART 1: CONNECT

From October to Christmas Party:

- Pray daily for divine appointments
- Reconnect with friends and connect with new contacts
- Share successful connections
- 'lim kopi' with three friends
- Deliver three Christmas cards to your three friends

PART 2: COMMUNICATE

Pre-Party Preparation

1. Cell Equipping

- John 3:16 presentation
- Assessment of type A or B pre-believers
- Sharing of personal thanksgivings
- Thematic stories

2. Party Planning

- See pages 7-11 below and refer to Appendix A or B
- Three keys for your Christmas celebration:
 - a) **Have Fun**: To build and present your community
 - Fun - Party games and music
 - Food - Hosting the party
 - Friendship - Be sincere and relational (Every cell member must get to know every guest. Prior to the party, hosting of guests can be preassigned to members.)
 - b) **Honour God**: To show the reality of God in our lives
 - Give thanks before food
 - Give thanks for our lives - sharing of thanksgiving
 - Mass thanksgiving (to whole group - see Appendix G)
 - Personal thanksgiving (one-on-one or in smaller groups - see Appendix G)
 - Share the gospel (depending on guests' readiness - refer to Appendix F)

- c) **Add a Personal Touch:** To be a blessing to your friends
- Cell to prepare a gift for every guest
 - Pray blessings for the guests (one-on-one or in smaller groups) through the sharing of felt needs (use Full House Connect Tool - see Appendix F)
 - Invite to Christmas service or other services

PART 3: CONSOLIDATE

1. Those who made decisions

- Continue to connect with them
- Find time to go through “Your New Life With Jesus” with them
- Invite them to service and cell
- Invite them to attend the next LifeClass

2. Those who have not made decisions

- Continue to connect with them
- Pray for rhema word and felt needs to be met
- Look for opportunities to share the gospel
- Invite them to cell’s outreach events for continued interaction (e.g., movie marathon, meals, games)

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

PART 1: PLANNING GUIDELINES AND TIPS

1. Time and Date

Pick a time and date that is as convenient as possible for your guests. For a party to be successful, we need guests.

- Pick a date that doesn't clash with any major event and a time that is convenient for the guests. For example: Mondays may not necessarily be the best days considering that it is the first day of the work week. For marketplace cells, weeknights are more feasible than weekends and lunchtime parties are a good option to consider.
- Set a time that is realistic for your guests. Starting too early might be difficult as your guests might have to come from work, and starting too late might not be good too as it means the party will end late. Dinner parties tend to be the most common but don't discount brunch and teatime too!
- Consider what your guests just did and what they will be doing the next day. For example: If your party is during the week and your guests are coming from work, make sure you give them enough time to get through rush-hour traffic to get to the party. Also, do consider that they may not exactly be full of joy if their work day didn't go smoothly. Also, if they must go back to work the next day, just remember that they may not let their hair down as much as you'd like and open up as they would be subconsciously thinking of the next day's work.

2. Select a Suitable Venue

Find a private venue where everyone can feel relaxed. In addition to having parties at homes, you can also consider other venues such as condominium function room, office meeting room or cafeteria. The main consideration for a suitable venue is where everyone can feel at ease but still engage in meaningful conversation. You can create a homely feel without necessarily being at home.

- Consider the number of guests and select an appropriate venue. Some parties have been conducted in private function rooms of condominiums, restaurants, or even church.

- Make sure to secure your venue early and consider the logistics that you will need to acquire for that venue to work (e.g., sound system, tables, chairs).
- The trick to having a great party is to have a venue that can facilitate meaningful conversation with little or no distraction.
- If you are having a party in the marketplace, be sure you seek permission to host a party from the venue owner or whoever is in charge.
- Do take into consideration accessibility to the venue by your guests as well as any time limitation for using the venue.

3. Decorations

How the place looks will also help in setting the atmosphere for the party. Naturally, decorate the place in a manner suitable to celebrate Christmas.

- Decorations can be bought or made. Either way, it's a good way to bring the cell together to prepare the place.
- Decorations don't just refer to decorative pieces. Other more mundane items play an important part too - like cutlery, tablecloths, lights, etc.

4. Venue Setup

Not all venues are ideally set up to host a party. Homes may have items or furniture that may not facilitate hosting a larger group of people and other venues may totally be bare. Make sure you plan the layout well so that people have enough space to mingle and sit around.

- Make sure there's easy access to the food and drinks.
- Have a lounging area if possible for your guests to get comfortable and relax.
- Shift any breakables away from the high traffic areas.
- Remove any rugs if you want to avoid getting them stained.
- Make sure that your guests know where the restroom is.
- If there are going to be children, child-proof your venue. The last thing you'd want is for a child to be hurt.

5. Plan the Guest List

Come together as a cell and plan who you're going to invite.

- Pen down the three friends whom you have personally delivered the Christmas cards to.
- Set a faith goal as a cell. How many guests do you want to see at the party? Remember, there will always be a level of attrition between the number of invited guests and number of attending guests. A general rule of thumb would be to invite more people and consider this attrition. Some sources indicate that it can only be 20% to 25% of invited guests who eventually attend, so take this into account!
- Invite your guests, especially the three friends whom you have delivered Christmas cards to. Praying is important and great and all that, but you need to step out and actually invite your guests.

6. Get the Word Out

For your guests to make it to your party, they're going to need some information. You can consider using social media to invite your guests.

- Give them all the relevant information on when and where the party's going to be and how to get there.
- Let them know if they can bring other guests.
- Provide all other miscellaneous instructions so that they can have a great time at the party (e.g., gift exchange instructions, food instructions if it's a potluck).

7. Set a Budget

Throwing a party can be expensive once you put everything together. We're talking about getting sufficient food, securing a venue, decorating the place, preparing other items and so on. So, set a budget and plan your party according to it.

- Parties aren't fun if you don't invest in it, but that doesn't mean that it's all about how much money you have. Plan according to your budget and if something might not fit monetarily, work around it!

- Pool together as a cell to make sure everything that's needed is provided for.
- If finances are a constraint, consider a potluck party.

8. Have a Clean Up Plan

You'll want your guests coming into a nice and clean venue and you'll also want your home to be restored to its former glory (or you'll need to return the venue in good condition). So, please do plan to clean up before and after the party.

9. Put Everything in a Planning Checklist

If you need a sample checklist to help you keep track of planning your party, feel free to use the Planning Checklist in Appendix C.

10. Delegate the Work

It takes the entire cell to host a great party, so don't just let a few people do all the work. Delegate and assign tasks so that the workload is spread out. Even when it comes to hosting guests and keeping the atmosphere nice and relaxed, everyone has a part to play.

- Assign tasks to as many people as required so that all bases are covered once the party has started.
- You might be busy coordinating some behind-the-scene activities while the party is going on, so make sure the rest of the cell are helping by hosting the guests.
- If you can't do it yourself, have someone on hand who is looking at the overall condition of the party. Are more drinks and food needed? Has the music stopped? Are people feeling a little too warm or cold? Is there enough space? These are just some things to be thinking about.

11. Prayer

As mentioned above, it is important to carry out the suggested prayer strategies.

Starting October, pray daily for divine appointments. Start off the day by praying for divine appointments and God may lead you to connect with

someone unexpected. Believe that God will give you opportunities to invite your family, friends and new contacts, and that you will have favour and open doors with them.

Starting November, pray over your potential or confirmed guest list at the cell level, e.g., 3x3 prayer. Pray for each guest you are inviting and follow up on the invitation made earlier. Pray and believe God for your cell's faith goals, pertaining to the number of guests you want to see. Pray for the salvation of your guests.

As the party approaches, intensify prayer and fast for your Christmas Party. Bind any spiritual forces that seek to thwart the programme or stop guests from attending.

PART 2: ACTUAL RUNNING OF PARTY

(refer to Appendix A or B for details)

Remember the three keys for your Christmas Party.

1st Key: Have Fun

FUN

1. Party Games

A party is only fun when the hosts of the party are having fun themselves. It's always important to put yourselves in your guests' shoes. While it may seemingly be apt to play games that revolve around Christmas (e.g., quizzes about the Christmas narrative or carols), not all your guests may be that familiar with Christmas. As such, try and plan out games where everyone can enjoy and be part of, regardless of what Christmas is to them.

- Attached in this manual are some party games for your reference. However, if you'd like to explore other options, please feel free to do so.
- It's always handy to have some household games ready, such as board games or card games. As long as they are simple enough, people can easily get into it and have some random fun.
- Refer to Appendix D for suggested ice breakers, which we recommend you use to get everyone acquainted before the Christmas meal.

2. Music

One of the best tools in our arsenal that can set the mood and atmosphere is music. Make sure you've got some nice tunes playing.

- Get a media player. This can be a laptop, your phone, an mp3 player and so on. If you've got appropriate music for the season, go right ahead. If you don't, get Spotify (just google it). Honestly, it's the best resource for music, even if you use the free version. With Spotify, you instantly have access to a huge library of songs. You can even search for pre-made Christmas playlists.

- Get suitable speakers. Even if you've got great tunes, those tunes wouldn't do any good if they can't be heard. Most of us would have speakers at home, but are they suitable? Try to get speakers that can cover your venue well. Be sure not to blast the music and drown out all conversations nor make it so soft that it might as well not be playing.
- Appoint someone to be the DJ. At the very least, someone needs to manage the volume during the party.

FOOD AND DRINKS

1. Food

Christmas parties tend to revolve around food, and lots of it. If you want your guests to stick around, make sure you provide good food. Since it's the Christmas period, take the opportunity to provide some festive food – turkey, baked ham and so on.

- Make it a special festive menu; after all, this is a Christmas party.
- Try and have a special attraction in the meal, e.g., home-cooked food, specialty dishes, barbeques.
- There are a lot of Christmas set meals available during the season, but they usually require advance booking. Keep that in mind!
- Have lots of finger food on hand. It's always important to have food available to guests the moment they walk in. These can be as simple as chips and dip or as fanciful as homemade dim sum.
- Before you begin the feasting, take the opportunity to honour God by saying grace to give thanks for the food.

2. Drinks

People don't only come to a party hungry, they come thirsty too. So, let's have some nice drinks prepared for them!

- Just like the finger food, have drinks available the moment the guests step in.
- Have enough drinks for everyone; don't let your guests mingle empty-handed or with an empty glass.

- Have a nice selection of drinks; often we don't focus much on drinks and only prepare a limited variety of drinks. Have a variety of fizzy drinks, non-carbonated drinks, juices and of course, water.
- Have some coffee and tea on hand too. You'll never know who would like a hot drink instead.
- Make sure there's easy access to the food and drinks.

FRIENDSHIP

Be Sincere and Relational

Being yourselves is a surefire way to make your guests feel at ease and relaxed. Make it a point to welcome your guests and mingle with them. Pay attention to their body language, whether they are comfortable or feeling unsettled. Help your guests settle in by introducing yourselves and take special interest in getting to know them.

- Find a non-imposing manner of identification. The most common way this is done is through stickers with names written on them. For a sit-down party, you can consider asking your guests to write their names on stickers and stick to their glasses.
- Most of your guests would not know the other invited guests. The cell is the glue that will bring them all together. Encourage the cell to unleash their most sociable personalities and get them talking to various guests from different groups, and where possible, bring the various groups together.
- Remember: every cell member must get to know every guest at the party! It is important for our guests to feel connected with the cell community and not just the friend who brought them.
- One surefire way to get guests mingling at your party is to have a gift exchange since it is Christmas. Just remember to set a price cap on the gifts so that it doesn't get too out of hand. Another way of managing this gift exchange is for the cell to prepare enough gifts for all the invited guests so that no one is embarrassed for not bringing a gift to exchange.

2nd Key: Honour God

SHARING THANKSGIVING / PRESENTING JESUS

(refer to Appendix F)

- After the Christmas meal, gather the guests and use the “Full House Connect Tool” in Appendix F to elicit sharing from the guests at a more personal and light-hearted level. It is recommended that one set of cards be used in a small group of four to five persons, with a small group leader present to facilitate. Do print enough sets based on your party’s attendance.
- Prepare one cell member to share his/her impactful thanksgiving with the group. Refer to Appendix G for how to share a thanksgiving.
- The host of the party should then invite everyone to return to their small groups, and the small group leaders should takeover to surface and pray for any felt needs of the guests using the “Full House Connect Tool”.
- Depending on the readiness of your guests, present Jesus by sharing the John 3:16 presentation.
- Lead your guests in the Sinner’s Prayer.
- Appendix F provides the entire flow after the Christmas meal till the end of the party in verbatim.

3rd Key: Add a Personal Touch

- On top of the gift exchange (if it is part of the programme), the cell should prepare a gift for every guest.
- Invite your guests to our Christmas service or other services.

PART 3: POST-PARTY FOLLOW-UP

Post-Party Reporting

Please report the details of your Christmas Party through this Google form:
[fcbc.org.sg/christmasparty18](https://www.fcbc.org.sg/christmasparty18)

- Select the type of party
 - Christmas Party
 - Christmas Party (families with children)
- Team Pastors
- SP144 Leaders (drop-down option)
- Name of Cell Leaders
- Date of party
- Start time of party
- Number of members involved
 - Adults
 - Children (12 and below)
- Number of guests attended
 - Adults
 - Children (12 and below)
- Number of salvations
 - Adults
 - Children (12 and below)
- Number of rededications
 - Adults
 - Children (12 and below)

SAMPLE PROGRAMME

1. Arrival of Guests

Be ready to receive guests about 30 minutes before your scheduled event time. Some guests may come early, so have some people ready to mingle, and finger food and drink all prepared to be served.

2. Welcome

Once most of the guests arrive, it would be good to take some time for everyone to get to know one another. (You'll need to exercise some discretion when it comes to deciding when to start. If most of your guests aren't there yet, there's really no point in starting. But if it's getting a little late and not everyone is there yet, you might just have to get the party going first.) The welcome portion doesn't have to be a very long-drawn process. It could be just going around and introducing yourselves, a simple and fun ice breaker, or an activity that gets everyone mingling. There's no need to force everyone to share every single detail of their lives during a fixed segment. You can refer to Appendix D for suggestions.

If your guests like to sing, it is always good to get everyone into the Christmas mood by belting out some Christmas songs and carols.

3. Grace

Since this is a cell-based event, you don't have to be shy or apologetic about saying grace. It is Christmas too. As the cell leader or host, take some time to gather everyone before the meal is served and say grace. Take the opportunity to thank God for the food, friends, family and His blessings, and speak a blessing over all your guests.

4. Meal and Conversation

Every party would have a different kind of meal. Some smaller ones may have home-cooked food served by the host. Some may have a barbeque, while others may have a buffet. Whatever it is, it's important to give your guests enough uninterrupted time to enjoy the food and company. Let your conversations and atmosphere be spontaneous before moving on to the rest of the programme.

5. Use of “Full House Connect Tool” and Sharing of Thanksgiving

After the Christmas meal, gather everyone back to a common place and use the “Full House Connect Tool” in Appendix F to elicit sharing from the guests at a more personal and light-hearted level. It is recommended that one set of cards be used in a small group of four to five persons, with a small group leader present to facilitate. Do print enough sets based on your party’s attendance.

Invite a cell member to share his/her thanksgiving with the entire group.

6. Small Group Time

The host of the party should then invite the guests to go into small groups led by the small group leaders. Using the “Full House Connect Tool”, engage the guests to surface and pray for any felt needs. Depending on the readiness of the guests, the small group leaders can share the John 3:16 presentation and their personal thanksgivings, and lead the guests in the Sinner’s Prayer as led by the Holy Spirit.

7. Gift Exchange

The final segment of the programme is the gift exchange. Give time for everyone to gather before starting the gift exchange. A simple way of having a gift exchange is to number all the gifts that are brought. When it’s time for the exchange, each guest reaches into a bowl with small pieces of numbered paper in it. Whatever number they draw will correspond to a gift in the pile and that is their gift for the party. You can even turn it into a game. There are many ideas for gift exchange games that you can find online.

8. A Christmas Gift from the Cell

This year, we encourage every cell to add a personal touch by giving a Christmas gift from the cell to every guest who attends your party. Your cell members can come together to decide on the gifts. This is not only an added surprise for the guests, but it will also bring the cell closer together as you work on personalised gifts for your guests.

9. End

If the party doesn't show any sign of people wanting to go home, that's a really good thing! Allow the guests to continue hanging around if they'd like and continue to get to know them. But once it starts getting late (or you've exceeded your booking time), make a polite announcement that the party is over. Or if you'd really like to be subtle about it, start cleaning up the place.

Miscellaneous Points:

- An estimate for the duration of the party should be 2 to 2.5 hours.
- Sample ice breakers, carols and a gift exchange story are found in Appendices D, E and H.
- Guidelines for thanksgiving sharing is found in Appendix G.
- The Christmas story for children in pictorial form is in Appendix I.
- Resources for hosting children guests, as well as for sharing the "Breaking the Barrier" illustration can be found in Appendix J.
- Try to keep the party a party, rather than a structured activity. If possible, keep it spontaneous. That's one of the best things about a party.

CHILDREN/FAMILY PARTIES

1. HAVE FUN

ARRIVAL OF GUESTS

- Have a photo corner for families to take pictures.
- Provide some toys for the children to play with.
- Have guests guess the total number of ornaments on the tree as they arrive. The closest guess wins.

GAMES

Game Set 1: “A Minute to Win It” Christmas Edition

The families/children can play the games listed in a competitive manner, to see which team can win the game in a minute. Or, you can play the games in a non-competitive manner, just to break the ice and have fun together.

a. Defying Gravity

Preparation needed:

- 3 red and green balloons (one set)
- Choose 1 child vs 1 child, or 1 adult vs 1 adult for this game

Instructions:

The players are supposed to keep the balloons in the air for one minute. If any of the balloons touches the ground within one minute, one team is out of the game. The one who successfully keeps his/her balloons afloat wins the game.

Video tutorial:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hIP6wxJyKlc>

b. Deck the Balls

Preparation needed:

- 2 gift wrap tubes, 3 ornaments (one set)
- Choose 2 parents or 2 older children for this game

Instructions:

One player must use a gift wrap tube to suck up ornaments and transfer it to his/her partner. They need to hang three ornaments properly on a waiting string.

Video tutorial:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KWiJ_-wvrBO

c. Christmas Cliff Hanger

Preparation needed:

- 8 Christmas cards, table (one set)
- Choose one adult or child to play

Instructions:

The contestants will blow greeting cards across the table in an attempt to make them hang over the edge without falling. This must be achieved at least once.

Video tutorial:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UQSNL3T3Ic>

d. Christmas Balls

Preparation needed:

- Wrapped-up gift box, 2 ornament balls
- Draw a large circle or square on the floor for each team
- Choose one adult or child to play

Instructions:

The player will use a wrapped-up gift box to propel two holiday ornaments across the floor area and into a predetermined zone.

Video tutorial:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fYI078KqIN4>

e. Matchmaker

Preparation needed:

- 18 pieces of M&Ms (6 pieces of 3 different colours)
- 18 cups for covering M&Ms
- 3 cups for collating M&Ms
- Choose one adult and one child to form a team

Instructions:

The players are to lift up the cups to check out the colours of the various M&Ms and transfer them into three separate containers. Each container should contain M&Ms of the same colour.

Video tutorial:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ywd90cVPtxw>

Game 2: Ornament on a Spoon

Split into teams, set up a relay course with or without obstacles. With an ornament on his/her spoon, the first person will go through the course and return to pass it on. Players can only use their spoons to pass the ornaments. If someone drops the ornament, he/she needs to do the entire course again. Once the ornament is successfully passed off, it's the next person's turn until everyone has completed the course.

Game 3: Passing the Christmas Parcel

Preparation needed:

- Bowl or bag
- Write down forfeits on separate slips of paper
 - Sing a carol
 - Show us your best dance move
 - Clap with your hands, then with your feet, and repeat
 - Say “I love you” to a family member
 - Prepare mini gift slips and allow those who draw these slips to choose something from the mini gift table
 - Recite the months of the year backwards

Instructions:

- Write down each forfeit on a separate slip of paper, fold it well and put them all in a bowl or small bag.
- Sitting in a circle, with Christmas music on, pass any small item (e.g., ball, balloon, cushion, box) to the person on your right or left, and it goes on that way until the music stops.
- The person holding the item when the music stops has to pick a random slip of paper and perform whatever activity is written on it, and then the person is out of the game.
- The music starts again and this goes on until the last person, the winner, remains.

2. HONOUR GOD

a. Thanksgiving Banner



Preparation

For families who are hosting parties for families with children, before the party, have a time with the family that will allow your children to share by drawing or speaking or writing miracles and things that they are thankful to God for in 2018. Have them write each item down on a star template, then create a thanksgiving banner using the stars.

For cell groups that are running children-only parties, if there are GKidz children (without parents) in the parties, have them prepare thanksgivings using Appendix G. If there are no GKidz children in the parties, the leaders can prepare a thanksgiving banner (as described above) so it can be used as a talking point at the party.

How to make a Thanksgiving Banner:

- Print out the star template (Annex A) on a piece of coloured paper. Print as many stars as you'll need.
- Cut out the stars.
- Write or draw thanksgiving items on one side of the stars. (If you have time, let your children create designs on one side of the stars.)
- Prepare a string and some clips (or punch holes through the stars) to hang up the stars to create a banner.

Actual Party

Create a Thanksgiving Banner:

Have each family create a banner that can be hung in their living room. Have each person in the family write or draw one thing that they are thankful for in 2018 on a star template. Each person can do more than one.

Have each family create a banner together. Each family can do a show-and-tell by sharing three things they are thankful for, based on the banner they created.

The hosting family can be the last to share their thanksgiving. They will share about the miracles and things that they are thankful for, using the thanksgiving banner they had prepared in advance.

b. Sharing the Christmas Story

Transition to the sharing - "We just had a lot of fun together at this Christmas party, but do any of you know the reason why we celebrate Christmas? It's not just about gifts, yummy food or family, the reason why we celebrate Christmas is because of the greatest gift of all - Jesus! Jesus is God's Son and at Christmas, we celebrate that Jesus was born on Earth for a very important reason. But first let me share with you the Christmas Story."

Option 1 - Watch a Video

Preparation:

- Assign a cell member or GKidz child within the cell/family to share a simple two- to three-minute thanksgiving of God's reality in their life, through answered prayer, miracle or healing. Ensure that the thanksgiving is something that children's visitors can relate to.
- Download the Christmas Story video onto your laptop (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FrOBJo6LNfw>).
- Either connect the laptop to a TV or projector, or play the video on your laptop if the group of children is not very big. Consider using external speakers to amplify the volume.

Instructions for video playback:

- Play the video until the end.
- Summarise the Christmas Story - "This happened over 2,000 years ago. An angel told Mary that she would have a baby who would be very important. He was so important that angels appeared to announce His birth, shepherds and wise men from a faraway country came to meet and worship Him. Why was this baby so important? Well, that's because He is God's Son, Jesus, and He came to be the Saviour of the whole world. He grew up to save many people."
- Transition to thanksgiving - "Jesus wasn't someone who only saved people many, many years ago. He continues to save and help us today. Let us invite (*name*) to share a short thanksgiving about how Jesus has been real in his/her life."
- Thanksgiving sharing.

(If the guests are ready for the John 3:16 presentation)

Transition to "Breaking the Barrier" illustration - "Jesus is real and wants to save and help us even today! He came to save us in an amazing way. Now, we are going to split into smaller groups to share with you a story using this special sticker book about Jesus and what He did to save the whole world."

Break into smaller groups of three to four children to share the "Breaking the Barrier" illustration. See Appendix J for instructions on how to use this gospel sharing tool.

Option 2 – Share the Christmas Story using Printed Visual Aids

Preparation:

- Print out the Christmas Story visual aids (Appendix I) in colour on A3 paper – the picture on one side and the text to read out on the back.
- Ensure that the pieces of paper are in the correct order.

Instructions for storytelling:

- Gather the children to sit facing the narrator(s) and pictures.
- Read the text for each picture in sequential order.
- You can take turns between two adults to read the story.
- If you have upper primary children from GKidz in your group, you can consider getting them to read the story.
- Transition to thanksgiving – “Jesus wasn’t someone who only saved people many, many years ago. He continues to save and help us today. Let us invite (*name*) to share a short thanksgiving about how Jesus has been real in his/her life.”
- Thanksgiving sharing.

(If the guests are ready for the John 3:16 presentation)

Transition to “Breaking the Barrier” illustration – “Jesus is real and wants to save and help us even today! He came to save us in an amazing way. Now, we are going to split into smaller groups to share with you a story using this special sticker book about Jesus and what He did to save the whole world.”

Break into smaller groups of three to four children to share the “Breaking the Barrier” illustration. See Appendix J for instructions on how to use this gospel sharing tool.

3. ADD A PERSONAL TOUCH

Do prepare a gift or goodie bag for all the children. And don't forget the adults; prepare something for them too.

Find an opportunity to pray for the adults, while the children are busy with activities or playing.

FOLLOW-UP PLATFORMS TO CONNECT AND CONSOLIDATE

1. "The Star" Movie Screening Session 1

Date: 22 Dec (Sat)

Time: 1pm - 2.30pm

Venue: Gateway Theatre, Black Box

Objective: To connect with contacts, while watching a movie about Christmas

- Open for families with children
- Social gathering, without altar call
- Sky Garden is open for mingling with your contacts for one hour after the show
- Ticket booking is required at <https://tinyurl.com/y8c8xa4h>

2. "The Star" Movie Screening Session 2

Date: 22 Dec (Sat)

Time: 3.30pm - 5.30pm

Venue: Gateway Theatre, Black Box

Objective: To let children know the true meaning of Christmas, and give them an opportunity to receive God's true love into their lives

- Open for cells/groups reaching out to children only
- Movie with altar call for response at the end
- Sky Garden is open for mingling with your contacts for one hour before the show
- Ticket booking is required at <https://tinyurl.com/ya7bzirv>

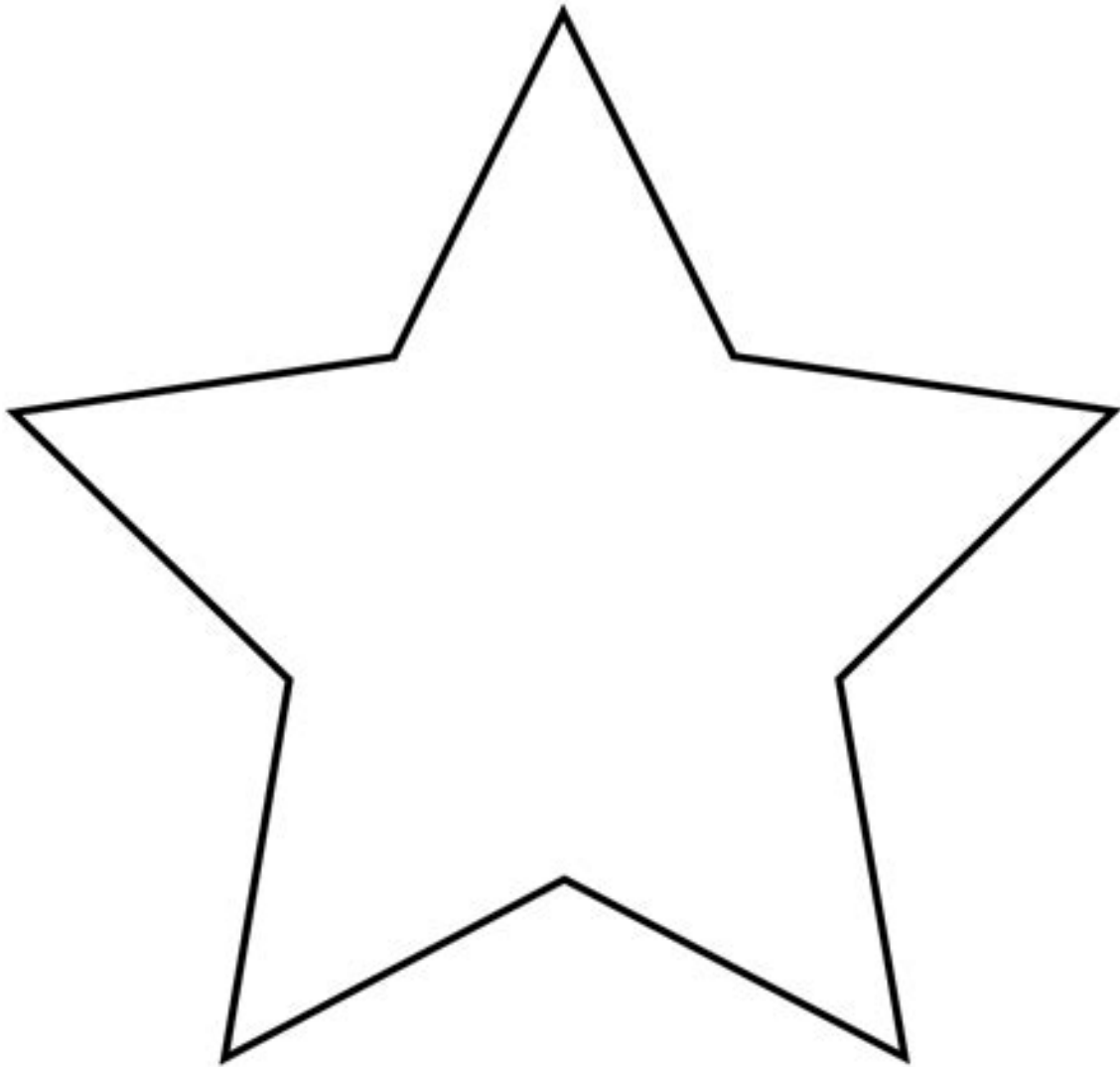
3. GKidz Christmas Celebration

Date: 22 & 23 Dec (Sat & Sun)

Time: Regular service timings

Venue: Regular locations

Star Template



CHRISTMAS PARTY PLANNING CHECKLIST

DATE & TIME	e.g., 25 December, 8pm	VENUE	e.g., TC Chapel
4 Weeks Before	2 Weeks Before	1 Week Before	Event Day
Things to do: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delegate tasks to cell • Organise guest list • Pray for invited guests • Plan menu/ order food and drinks • Send invitations • PRAY! • ... • ... 	Things to do: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check RSVPs, confirm guest list • Shop for needed supplies • PRAY! • ... • ... 	Things to do: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare for last-minute RSVPs • Delegate actual day tasks and roles • Start decorating • PRAY! • ... • ... 	Things to do: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buy perishables • Cook food • Finish final decorations • PRAY! • ... • ...
GUEST LIST		MENU	
Guest	Invited By		
Guests' names	Cell members' names		
ROLES		MISC NOTES	
Role	Name		
Music			
F&B			
Games			
Décor			
Testimony Sharing			
...			
...			
...			

ICE BREAKERS

Game #1: Getting To Know You - Personalised ‘Boggle’

You can set up two or more groups of about four or five people each to play this game.

Set up a 7-by-7 table by filling it up continuously with names of group members, including surname (add dialect name if there are fewer members in the group).

After the tables have been set up, form as many 3-letters and above words as possible within three minutes.

A word can be formed so long as it continues from one alphabet to the next:

- include diagonals and running backwards
- exclude using the same alphabet twice or more
- related words found in the original words are to be excluded

3-letter words are worth 1 point, 4-letter words 2 points, and so on. Add up the points for that round.

An example of a completed 7-by-7 table: DanielKhong PohWeeLong AsherEng WangGuangHan SimonYee (excluded words would be “long” or “ash”)

D	A	N	I	E	L	K
H	O	N	G	P	O	H
W	E	E	L	O	N	G
A	S	H	E	R	E	N
G	W	A	N	G	G	U
A	N	G	H	A	N	S
I	M	O	N	Y	E	E

Before you start, get everyone to flip their sheets over and go one round to get everyone to introduce themselves to everyone else from the rest of the groups. When introductions have been done, Game Leader to start and time the game play.

Some possible words that can be formed using the above 7-by-7 table:

1. Dangle	11. Pole	21. Seen	31. Was	41. Her	51. Nay
2. Done	12. Role	22. Heron	32. Wane	42. Here	52. Nag
3. Does	13. Roe	23. Hero	33. Won	43. Hen	53. Hog
4. Doe	14. Hope	24. Aim	34. Woe	44. Gun	54. Eel
5. How	15. Honor	25. Wash	35. Anger	45. Guns	55. Heel
6. Pool	16. Pore	26. Washer	36. Lean	46. Hay	
7. Loop	17. Gore	27. Saw	37. Hang	47. Gong	
8. Loo	18. Lone	28. Weasel	38. Leg	48. Gang	
9. Hoop	19. Loner	29. Wheel	39. Gone	49. Yes	
10. Poor	20. See	30. Wag	40. Has	50. Yen	

For subsequent rounds of the game, you could play using:

- Housing estates and/or roads of members' home addresses
- Hobbies of members

Other variations of the game would be to swap the 7-by-7 tables clockwise, i.e., each group would fill up the 7-by-7 table with their own names and pass it to the group on their left.

Logistics required:

- As many copies of empty 7-by-7 tables (or blank A4 sheets and get the participants to draw lines to make a 7-by-7 table)
- Blank A4 sheets to write out the formed words
- Pens or pencils

make as many copies as needed for use

Game #2: R.O.C.K.

Have teams of about four or five people. Distribute one sheet per team. Game Leader would set an alphabet for a round of game play, e.g., 'A'. In 60 seconds, the team is to come up with words starting with the letter 'A' in as many categories as possible in the table. The Game Leader will review the round of answers, and answers that are the same for two or more groups for that category would be eliminated. 1 point for each unique word for that round. 3 points for words related to Christmas that are unique to competing groups.

ALPHABET	Round 1 Sample: 'A'	Round 2	Round 3
1. MRT Station	Aljunied MRT		
2. School	Ahmad Ibrahim Sec		
3. City	Abu Dhabi		
4. Country	Australia		
5. Food	Ang Ku Kueh		
6. Fruit	Apple		
7. Animal	Ape		
8. Brand	Adidas		
9. Movie	Avengers		
10. Celebrity	Adrian Pang		
11. Song Title	Away in a Manger		
12. Road	Ang Mo Kio Ave 3		
13. Office Supplies	A4 Paper		

When reviewing answers, if two teams have the same answer, e.g., "Aljunied MRT", that answer should be eliminated as it is not a unique answer.

Logistics required:

- As many copies of A4 sheets with categories
- Pens or pencils

make as many copies as needed for use

ALPHABET	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3
1. MRT Station			
2. School			
3. City			
4. Country			
5. Food			
6. Fruit			
7. Animal			
8. Brand			
9. Movie			
10. Celebrity			
11. Song Title			
12. Road			
13. Office Supplies			

Game #3: Memory Game

Split the group into teams of five. Each team sits facing the Game Leader. The Game Leader will introduce the words and actions one at a time. All to follow along and try to remember the sequence. (For groups made up of adults, forgo this step as they will remember the actions.) Game will end once the groups are able to say all ten words and do the corresponding actions in order.

Tutorial video:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=OB7hUF2GAS4ikc3VvKNDBrZDJ2VVk>

Cue sheet:

Phrase	Action
Christmas Tree	Arms above head, fingertips touching. Point to the left and right alternately for four counts.
Give Presents	Both hands in front of body, pushing away from body to the left and right alternately for four counts.
Eat Ah Eat	Alternate moving left and right hands towards mouth for four counts.
Snowfall	Move arms from above head in a wavy fashion down to where body is in a squat in four counts.
Jingle Bells	Spraying action to the left and right alternately for four counts.
Gingerbread Man	Spin around in a star jump action for four counts.
Warmth	Use arms to hug yourself and sway from left to right alternately for four counts.
Christmas Lights	Sprinkling hand action above head, diagonally up, at sides and diagonally down over four counts.
Turkey	Flap arms like wings to the right for two counts, and to the left for two counts.
Star	Do a star jump.

Game #5: 'Talent' Time

You can play in teams of four to five people, where each team sends out one player to compete based on a given word, e.g., "The Whitest...".

When all representatives are ready, reveal the area they need to compete on: e.g., "The Whitest Teeth".

Assess each of the rounds and keep scores for the teams.

Some categories the Game Leader can call out:

- The Longest... - The Longest BIG TOE
- The Shortest... - The Shortest FRINGE
- The Thickest... - The Thickest HAIRDO
- The Thinnest... - The Thinnest EYEBROWS
- The Most... - The Most MOLES ON LEFT ARM
- The Least... - The Least LEG HAIR
- The Lowest... - The Lowest DEGREE OF EYEGLASSES
- The Tiniest... - The Tiniest EYES (smile)
- The Biggest... - The Biggest AHHH (open mouth wide like at the dentist)
- The Highest... - The Highest TOSS OF A TISSUE PACK (cannot hit ceiling)

Logistics required:

- A few tissue packs for concurrent tossing, if you use that challenge
- Otherwise, no logistics required

Game #6: Never Have I Ever

Everyone starts with five lives, indicated by holding up their palm with all five fingers up.

Each person takes turns to say a statement that he/she has never done before, using the phrase “Never have I ever...”. If any of the rest hearing the statement has done what was said, the hearer loses one life by folding down one of their fingers.

An example would be: “Never have I ever driven a car.” Hearers who have driven a car would need to fold down one of their fingers, i.e., they have four lives remaining.

For large groups with ten or more players, play until two to three people are knocked out completely. For smaller groups with less than ten players, play until there’s only one person left with life/lives.

Game #7: Charade

Game Leader prepares slips of paper with words or phrases, folds them and puts them in a bowl. A player then chooses a slip of paper and acts out the word or phrase.

Some common clues used in charades:

- To indicate a book, pretend to read a book
- To indicate a song, pretend to sing
- To indicate a movie, pretend to crank up an old movie camera
- To indicate the number of words, hold up that many fingers (then hold up one finger before pantomiming the first word, two fingers before the second word, and so on)
- To pantomime a word that rhymes with the word you want players to guess, first tug on your ear to mean 'sounds like'

The first person to guess the word or phrase gets a point. If you like, divide into teams before playing. Players from each team take turns to choose a slip of paper for their teammates. The first team to guess the word or phrase gets a point.

Keep track of the points earned by each player or team. The one with the most points at the end of the game wins.

Logistics required:

- Slips of paper with words or phrases
- A bowl
- A prize for the winner

QUESTIONS OVER MEAL

(when all are seated around the table and in no hurry to leave)

Questions #1

Pass out slips of paper and ask everyone to write a question that someone else would later pick from the pile and answer.

After they have answered the question, they can have three tries to guess who came up with the question. Should they pick their own question, they can put it back and draw another question.

(You may need to run through the questions to check that all the questions asked are appropriate and would not put anyone on the spot.)

Logistics required:

- Slips of paper
- Pens or pencils

Questions #2

You could play some other games around the table and those who forfeit (i.e., lose a round) have to draw a slip of paper and answer a question.

A. Guess A Number Between 1 To 100

Have someone set and fix a number within the range of 1 to 100. Everyone at the table takes turns to guess a number within the range. The one who set the number for that round would respond to guesses with “higher” or “lower” accordingly.

For example, if the secret number is “35”. The first person guesses “50” and is told “lower”, which implies the range is now between 1 to 49. The next person will then take a guess within the narrowed range of 1 to 49. The guessing continues as the range narrows until someone is cornered into saying “35”, and the forfeit would be to draw a question and answer.

B. Take Turns To Add More Water

Have two paper cups filled about 75% full with water. Place one cup in the middle of the table and have everyone take turns to add some water from the other cup, pouring carefully so the cup doesn't spill over.

The fun is watching how carefully people try to add just one drop and breathe a sigh of relief when they succeed, and pass the baton on to the next person who would now be stressed.

The person who causes the spill will do the forfeit, i.e., draw a question and answer.

cut out and fold

Which hawker stall or restaurant is a must-try in Singapore?	What animal do you like most or least?
Who do you respect most in life?	Who are you most thankful for, and why?
What is the weirdest thing that happened to you?	What is your dream job?
What is the biggest risk you've ever taken?	What is your favourite movie, and why?
Which is your favourite superhero, and why?	Where is your dream holiday destination?
What is one dish you can cook or cook well?	Share one weakness when it comes to food or shopping?
What is your typical order at McDonald's or the kopitiam (if you're not a fan of fast food)?	Share one item on your bucket list?
What food do you dislike most?	What's your favourite ice cream flavour?
What makes your best friend the best friend for you?	What is one thing you are thankful for in 2018?
Would you describe yourself as disciplined or lazy, and how so?	Is there a goal you're working towards now, and what is it?

CHRISTMAS SONGS

1. We Wish You A Merry Christmas

We wish you a merry Christmas
We wish you a merry Christmas
We wish you a merry Christmas
And a Happy New Year

Good tidings we bring
To you and your kin
Good tidings for Christmas
And a Happy New Year

2. Jingle Bells

Dashing through the snow
In a one-horse open sleigh
O'er the fields we go
Laughing all the way

Bells on bob-tail ring
Making spirits bright
What fun it is to ride and sing
A sleighing song tonight

Jingle bells Jingle bells
Jingle all the way
Oh what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh

3. Deck The Hall

Deck the hall with boughs of holly
Fa la la la la la la la la
Tis the season to be jolly
Fa la la la la la la la la
Don we now our gay apparel
Fa la la la la la la la la
Troll the ancient yuletide carol
Fa la la la la la la la la

Fast away the old year passes
Fa la la la la la la la la
Hail the new ye lads and lasses
Fa la la la la la la la la
Sing we joyous altogether
Fa la la la la la la la la
Heedless of the wind and weather
Fa la la la la la la la la

4. Angels We Have Heard On High

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echo back their joyous strains

Glo-ria
In excelsis deo
Glo-ria
In excelsis deo

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing
Come adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord the newborn King

5. Hark The Herald Angels Sing

Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled
Joyful all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With angelic hosts proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem
Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King

Hail the heav'n born
Prince of Peace
Hail the Son of Righteousness
Light and life to all He brings
Ris'n with healing in His wings
Mild He lays His glory by
Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth
Born to give them second birth
Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King

6. Silent Night

Silent night holy night
All is calm all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child
Holy Infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night holy night
Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia
Christ the Saviour is born
Christ the Saviour is born

Silent night holy night
Son of God love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus Lord at Thy birth
Jesus Lord at Thy birth

7. Joy To The World

Joy to the world the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and heaven
And nature sing

Joy to the world the Saviour reigns
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods
Rocks hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat repeat the sounding joy

He rules the world
With truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love
And wonders and wonders
Of His love

CHRISTMAS SONGS (WITH CHORDS)

1. We Wish You A Merry Christmas (K=G)

G C
We wish you a merry Christmas
A7 D7
We wish you a merry Christmas
B7 Em
We wish you a merry Christmas
C D7 G
And a Happy New Year

Chorus

G D
Good tidings we bring
C D7 G
To you and your kin
D G C
Good tidings for Christmas
C D G
And a Happy New Year

2. Jingle Bells (K=D)

D
Dashing through the snow
G
In a one-horse open sleigh
Em A7
O'er the fields we go
D
Laughing all the way
D
Bells on bob-tail ring
D7 G
Making spirits bright
Em A
What fun it is to ride and sing
A7 D
A sleighing song tonight

Chorus

D
Jingle bells Jingle bells
D7
Jingle all the way
G D
Oh what fun it is to ride
E7 (A7) A7 (D)
In a one-horse open sleigh

3. Deck The Hall (K=D)

D
Deck the hall with boughs of holly
Em D A D
Fa la la la la la la la la
D
Tis the season to be jolly
Em D A D
Fa la la la la la la la la
A7 D
Don we now our gay apparel
D G Em A
Fa la la la la la la la la
D Bm
Troll the ancient yuletide carol
G D A7 D
Fa la la la la la la la la

D
Fast away the old year passes
Em D A D
Fa la la la la la la la la
D Bm
Hail the new ye lads and lasses
Em D A D
Fa la la la la la la la la
A7 D
Sing we joyous altogetther
D G Em A
Fa la la la la la la la la
D Bm
Heedless of the wind and weather
G D A7 D
Fa la la la la la la la la

4. Angels We Have Heard On High (K=D)

D
Angels we have heard on high
 A D
Sweetly singing o'er the plains
D A D
And the mountains in reply
D A D
Echo back their joyous strains

Chorus

D Em D A
Glo-----ria
D Em A
In excelsis deo
D Em D A
Glo-----ria
D Em A
In excelsis deo

D
Come to Bethlehem and see
 A D
Him whose birth the angels sing
D A D
Come adore on bended knee
D A D
Christ the Lord the newborn King

6. Silent Night (K=A)

A
Silent night holy night
Bm E A A7
All is calm all is bright
D Bm A A7
Round yon virgin mother and child
D Bm A
Holy Infant so tender and mild
E E7 A F#m
Sleep in heavenly peace
A E A
Sleep in heavenly peace

A
Silent night holy night
Bm E A A7
Shepherds quake at the sight
D Bm A A7
Glories stream from heaven afar
D Bm A
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia
E E7 A F#m
Christ the Saviour is born
A E A
Christ the Saviour is born

A
Silent night holy night
Bm E A A7
Son of God love's pure light
D Bm A A7
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
D Bm A
With the dawn of redeeming grace
E E7 A F#m
Jesus Lord at Thy birth
A E7 E A
Jesus Lord at Thy birth

FULL HOUSE CONNECT TOOL

(including verbatim from post-Christmas meal to end of party)

1. After your cell party starts with introductions, ice breakers and food, transit the party into a sharing mood using the “Full House” sharing tool attached below, which is a set of nine double-sided printed cards. Cluster off into small groups of four to five people for this sharing activity. Each cluster will require one set of cards so do print the appropriate number of sets, as determined by the number of people at your party. (Cell leader should try to assign two cell members per cluster. One member to dialogue with those who are open and the other to just chat and connect with those who aren’t so open on more social topics.)
2. Each cluster gets a stack of nine cards with the words listed below printed on both sides (similar to iBless pamphlets).

Healthy 健康	MC King/Queen 病假王
Peaceful 平安	Stressful 压力
Harmony in Relationship 和谐	Struggles in Relationship 争吵
Financial Freedom 充足	Money Not Enough 钱不够用
Successful 成功	Surviving 混日子
Joyful 喜乐	Kiasu 怕输
Purposeful 目标	Aimless 没方向
Wisdom 智慧	Impulsive 冲动
Confident 自信	Insecure 没安全感
3. In small clusters, everyone takes turns to toss up all the cards in the air, and then selects from their toss one positive word and one negative word to share more about their own lives, based on whichever cards fell faced-up.

This is a light-hearted activity, mimicking what Singaporeans typically love to do during Chinese New Year gatherings - play cards!

“Full House” is a sharing tool. If anyone doesn’t like the outcome of their toss (they do not see anything they could talk about), then simply toss again until they’re happy with the toss.

4. After everyone has gone one round to share in the cluster, the cell leader would then invite a cell member to share at mass level, how **wonderful** it has been to know Christ (since Christmas is about Christ's birth). The testimony could revolve around a few pairs of words on how he/she had previously struggled and how God came through for him/her, and how he/she has come to experience *life in the full*. See John 10:10, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." (They can remain seated in their clusters while they hear the testimony.)
5. Cell leader can read John 10:10, "(Jesus said:) The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." And say, "Jesus came on Christmas so that we do not need to live broken lives but be restored to a **full** and abundant life, like what our brother/sister shared just now. That's why as believers, we treasure Christmas as we have all experienced in big or small ways, how God had heard our struggles and helped us grow to experience His breakthroughs and blessings."
6. Direct the time back to the small clusters and there, the guests and members could pick out from the cards, an area that they need prayer in, in order to see a turnaround in 2019.

The cluster should flip all nine cards to the negative side and ask the guests to pick and share the card they would like to see a turnaround in 2019. Pray that guests could comfortably open up to share their felt needs.

7. **If your guests are open to prayer for their felt needs**, the member in the small group should proceed to pray over them on the area(s) they had shared.

Do be alert to observe how the Holy Spirit is working and their body language as well. Guide all cell members in their pointers:

- a. **If you observe openness to God** (e.g., you see your guests tearing up after prayer, or he/she starts asking more seeker sort of questions), you could proceed to ask if he/she would like to know more about Christmas (the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus, a true historical person who lived, summarised in John 3:16).

If your guest would like to know more, your member should share John 3:16 using FCBC's printed card, which summarises Jesus' life

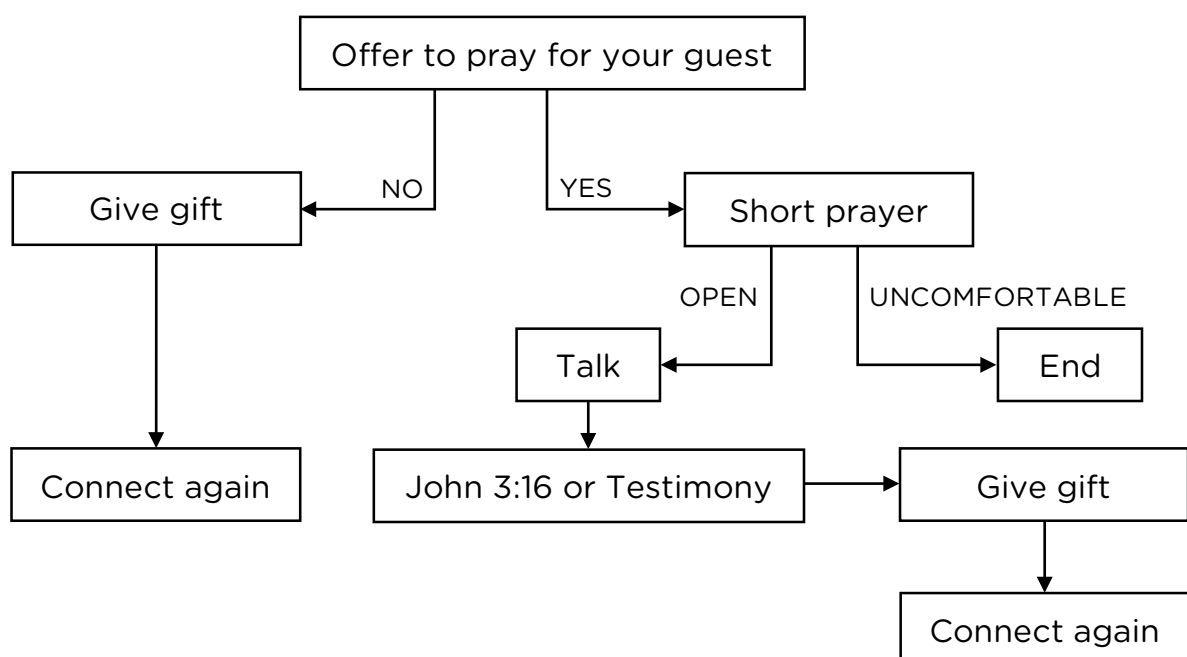
and purpose. After your member has shared John 3:16, invite the guest to pray the Sinner’s Prayer printed on the card.

- If your guest prayed the Sinner’s Prayer, say, “What you just prayed is a prayer of repentance and faith. It opens you to a relationship with God in a personal way.” Add on that after you prayed the Sinner’s Prayer, someone (*name*) helped you grow as a believer and you would like to help him/her to grow in his/her faith in Jesus as well.
- If your guest declined to pray the Sinner’s Prayer, say, “God loves you, and if at any point in time, you feel that you would like to try believing in God, you can pray the prayer on the card or visit our church services (details are printed on the card).”

b. **If you detect negative body language** as you are praying for their felt needs (like they seem uncomfortable, frowning, folded arms), keep your prayer brief.

8. **If your guest is not open to prayer for felt needs**, you could go to the next segment, which is to bring out the personalised Christmas gift for him/her, from the cell. Still, note their prayer need(s) and you could always ask how they are coming along at future connect moments.

9. End off with the giving of Christmas gifts and thank your guests for coming.



Full House

Healthy
健康

Peaceful
平安

Harmony
in Relationship
和諧

Financial
Freedom
充足

Successful
成功

Joyful
喜乐

Purposeful
目标

Wisdom
智慧

Confident
自信

MC King/Queen
病假王

Full House

✂

Struggles
in Relationship
争吵

Stressful
压力

✂

Surviving
混日子

Money
Not Enough
钱不够用

✂

Aimless
没方向

Kiasu
怕输

✂

Insecure
没安全感

✂

Impulsive
冲动



POINTERS FOR SHARING THANKSGIVING

1. **Be Engaging** – A story of God’s work should engage like a great story. The audience would be drawn into your story and stay tuned till the end!
 - You could start audience engagement by relating with the audience on aspects they can identify with (use common experiences or feelings).
 - You could also bring any photos, or related items, to illustrate your sharing.

2. **Be Authentic** – Do not just share facts. Share your heart, share deep. When you open up to share vulnerably, it will encourage your audience to open up their hearts to you. It will also cause them to share openly with you later on.

3. **Be Relatable** – Script it well as God wants to use your praise to awaken the desire of hearers to know Him personally too.
 - Use simple language and examples that pre-believers can understand.
 - Be descriptive, include how you felt during the before, down moments.
 - Be descriptive, at the end of your story, include how you felt as God lifted you out of the struggle and helped you overcome the problem.
 - Conclude by sharing how God’s work touched you and how He loves us all so that the hearers are drawn to a God who loves people in a personal way.

4. **Highlight God Moment(s)**
 - Perhaps it was an answered prayer or how you had been praying, add in your prayer lines (if you can recall) the timing or manner of how God answered your prayer.
 - You could add in a phrase from the Bible that you held on to (avoid using long passages and don’t preach off it).
 - You could share how faith arose for you with regards to (*the situation*).

5. **Acknowledge Community** – Add in community elements as well, as we would like hearers to know that it’s a blessing to be part of a community or church where there is spiritual covering and guidance, e.g., “My cell sister was there with me,” or “During sermon on Sunday, the pastor said _____ and it was exactly what I was praying about.”

6. **Be Succinct** – Keep it under five minutes.

7. **Share** – Share it as you would tell a story.
 - Memorise your script.
 - Share conversationally.

PREPARING YOUR THANKSGIVING

1. **Pray** – Before you begin writing, pray and ask the Holy Spirit to speak through you and your story.
2. **Have a Theme** (thank God for an attribute) – Ensure that your sharing has a key theme, so that your sharing is focused and drives a point across, e.g., you can focus on God’s healing in your life.
3. **Structure It** (Introduction, Journey, Conclusion) – A good structure will ensure your audience is able to follow along with your sharing. It keeps them captivated and brings across the ideas clearly.
4. **Write It Out** – It is important to write out in verbatim your full sharing, so that you have already worked out the transitions in between ideas beforehand. This will also ensure that you are succinct in your sharing.
5. **Practise** – Memorise your script and share conversationally. Share in cell or with another believer you are comfortable with to get feedback. Trim unnecessary details or Christian jargon, and improve on it to make it even more relatable.

WRITE, PRACTISE, SHARE

Look out for weekly themes in FCBC’s 4Ws during November to write a thanksgiving during cell in this Christmas season. Prepare it based on these pointers and share it during cell. This is continual training to help us write, practise and pray that God opens a door for us to regularly testify of Him!

SELECT A THANKSGIVING SHARER FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS PARTY

You can pray as a cell and select a thanksgiving everyone likes for sharing at mass level during the party. The selected thanksgiving should be extended to eight to ten minutes long.

GIFT EXCHANGE IDEAS

1. Guess the Giver

Instructions:

- As people arrive, the cell leader will receive the gifts that are brought and number each gift. Hand the person who brought the gift a slip of paper with a corresponding number.
- The person should write his/her name and an interesting fact about himself/herself on the slip of paper, and drop it into a bowl.
- During the gift exchange, the cell leader will randomly pick a slip of paper and read out the fact that was written, but not the name nor number.
- The rest are to guess who wrote the fact. The first who guesses correctly gets the gift and he/she is out of the game.
- The game continues on till everyone gets a gift. This game is fun and everyone can participate.

2. Just Be Blessed

Instructions:

- As people arrive, the cell leader will receive the gifts that are brought and number each gift.
- At the end of the party, the cell leader will pass around a bowl with the numbers of the gifts written on slips of paper.
- Everyone will pick a slip of paper. Once done, the cell leader will start to call out the numbers in sequence. The person whose number is called out will collect the gift.
- This continues till everyone gets a gift.
- The cell leader should ensure that if anyone ends up with his/her own gift, he/she will exchange gifts with the person next to them.

3. Right Family Christmas

Instructions:

- Have everyone sit in a circle, holding on to the gift they brought.
- The cell leader will read the story below aloud.
- Everyone will start to pass his/her gift either left or right, as mentioned in the story.

- At the end of story, everyone will take home the gift they're holding onto.

Gift Exchange Story

Christmas was almost here, and Mother **Right** was finishing the Christmas baking.

Father **Right**, Sue **Right** and Billy **Right** returned from their last-minute Christmas errands.

"There's not much **left** to be done," said Father **Right** as he came into the kitchen.

"Did you leave the basket of food at church?" asked Mother **Right**.

"I **left** it **right** where you told me to," said Father **Right**.

"I'm glad my shopping is done," said Billy **Right**, "I don't have any money **left**."

The hall telephone rang, and Susan **Right left** to answer it.

She rushed back and told the family, Aunt Tillie **Right left** a package for us **right** on Grandma **Right's** porch.

"I'll go over **right** now and get it," she said as she **left** in a rush.

Father **Right left** the kitchen and brought in the Christmas tree. By the time Susan **Right** returned, Mother **Right**, Father **Right** and Billy **Right** had begun trimming the tree.

The entire **Right** family sang carols as they finished the decorating.

Then they **left** all the presents arranged under the tree and went to bed, hoping they had selected the **right** gifts for their family.

Now, I hope you have the **right** present for yourself, because that's all that's **left** of our story...

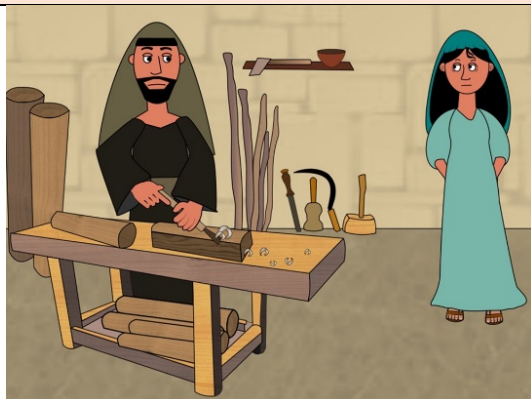
Except to wish you a Merry Christmas... isn't that **right**?

PICTURE 1



A long time ago, God sent an angel called Gabriel to the town of Nazareth in Israel. A young woman called Mary lived there. The angel had a very important message for her. She was going to have a baby and He was to be called Jesus because He is the Son of God. Mary was very excited and told the angel, "Let it happen just as God says!"

PICTURE 2



Mary was going to be married to a young man called Joseph. When he found out about the baby, he was sad. He decided he was not going to marry Mary.

PICTURE 3



That night, Joseph had a dream. He saw an angel who told him to marry Mary. The baby she was about to have was God's Son and He would be called Jesus. He would save people from their sins, just as God had promised long ago to the prophet Isaiah.

PICTURE 4



When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel told him and married Mary. They both loved God and each other very much, and were very happy about having God's special baby son.

PICTURE 5



Before Mary had baby Jesus, a ruler called Augustus wanted to count all the people in his kingdom. Mary and Joseph had to be counted as well. They needed to travel to a city called Bethlehem. They set off early because the city was a long way from Nazareth.

PICTURE 6



It took them a few days to reach Bethlehem. By the time they arrived, they were very tired.

PICTURE 7



As they entered the city, they saw many people who had come to be counted. Everyone was looking for a place to stay. Mary and Joseph wondered if they could find a place to rest before the baby was born. Every room in the city was full. Mary and Joseph could not find anywhere to stay.

PICTURE 8



Every room in the city was full with visitors and Mary and Joseph could not find anywhere to stay. Not even the inn had a place.

PICTURE 9



But just as they were getting very worried, the innkeeper told them they could find shelter in the place by the inn, where the animals lived. That night, baby Jesus was born, and Mary wrapped Him in warm cloths and put Him in a manger. Mary and Joseph cried with happiness because this baby was God's gift of love to them and to the world.

PICTURE 10



Nearby on a hill, another exciting thing was happening. An angel was telling a group of shepherds that the Saviour, Jesus Christ, was born in Bethlehem, and to go and see Him. After the angel finished speaking, the sky was filled with lots and lots of beautiful angels all praising God.

PICTURE 11



As soon as the angels left, the shepherds went down into Bethlehem and found Mary, Joseph and Jesus. They were so happy to see this special baby, who was God's Son. When they had seen Him, they went to tell everyone the good news that Jesus was born!

PICTURE 12



A long, long way from Bethlehem, some wise men were following a beautiful, bright star in the sky. They knew a very special King was going to be born soon and the star was going to lead them to Him.

PICTURE 13



The wise men followed the star day and night until at last it came to the place where Mary, Joseph and Jesus lived. They gave Jesus some gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, and they worshipped Him.

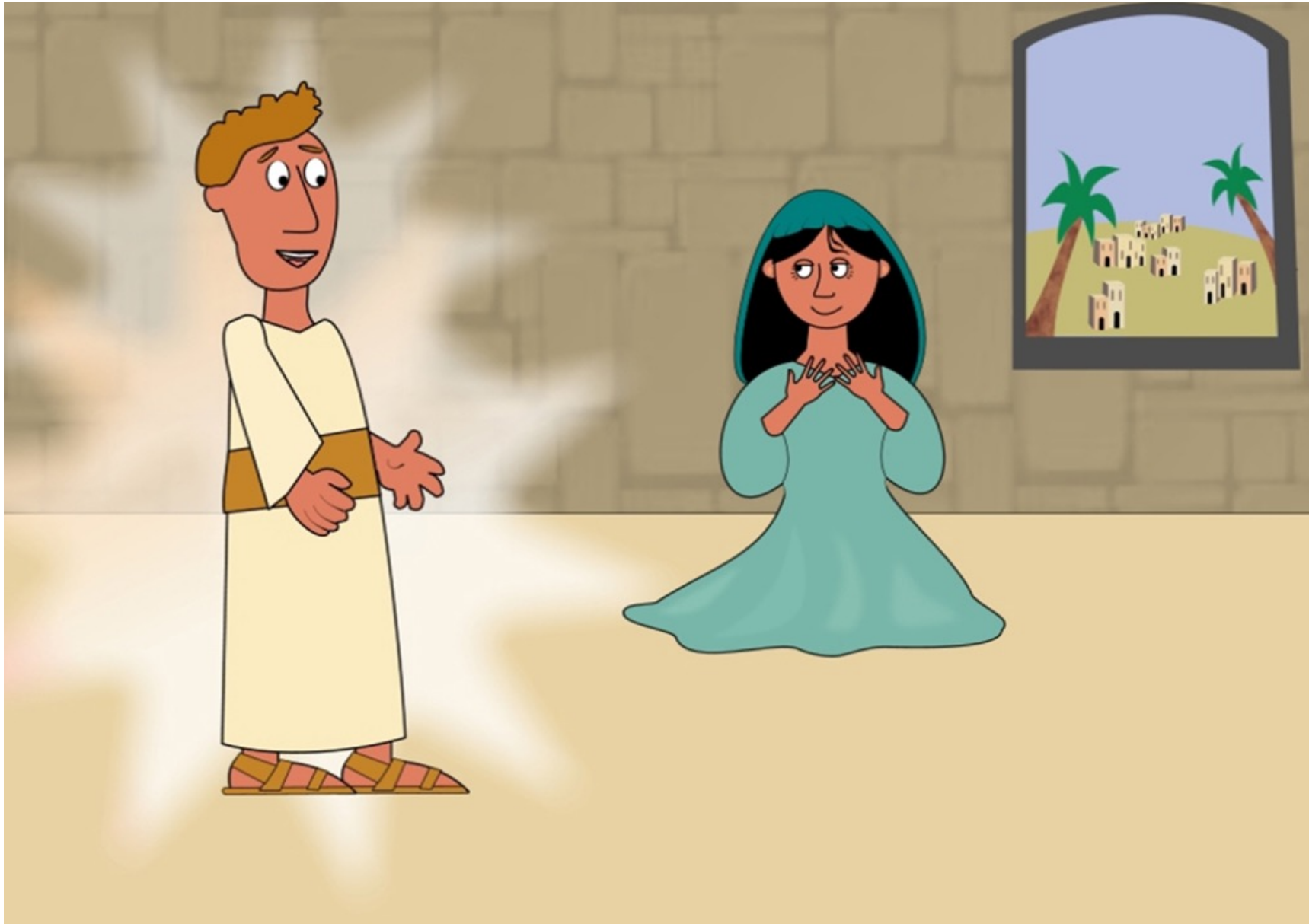
PICTURE 14



Why was the birth of Jesus so special? He was God's gift of love, peace and hope for the world. He came to save everyone.

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APPENDIX I



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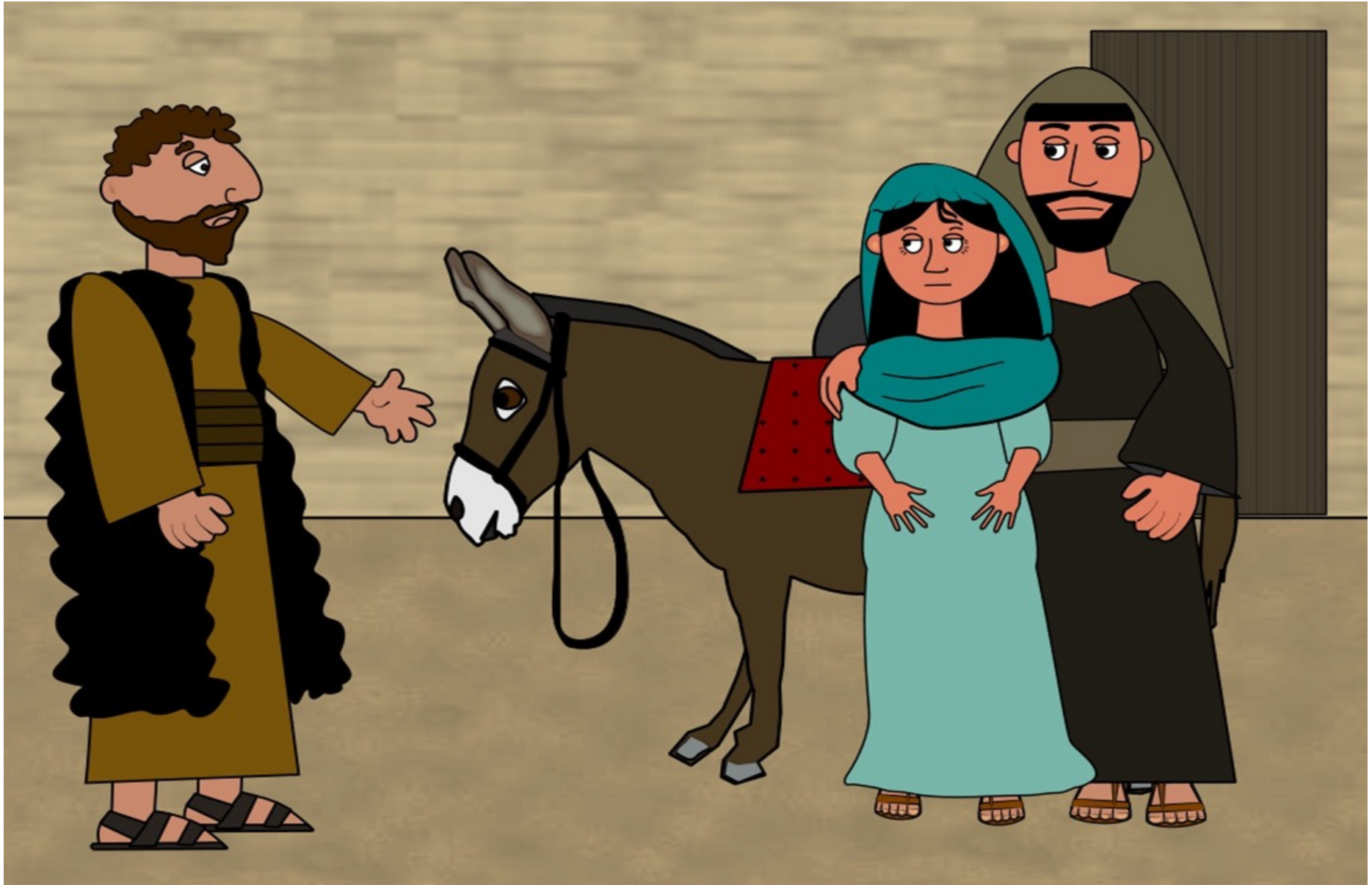
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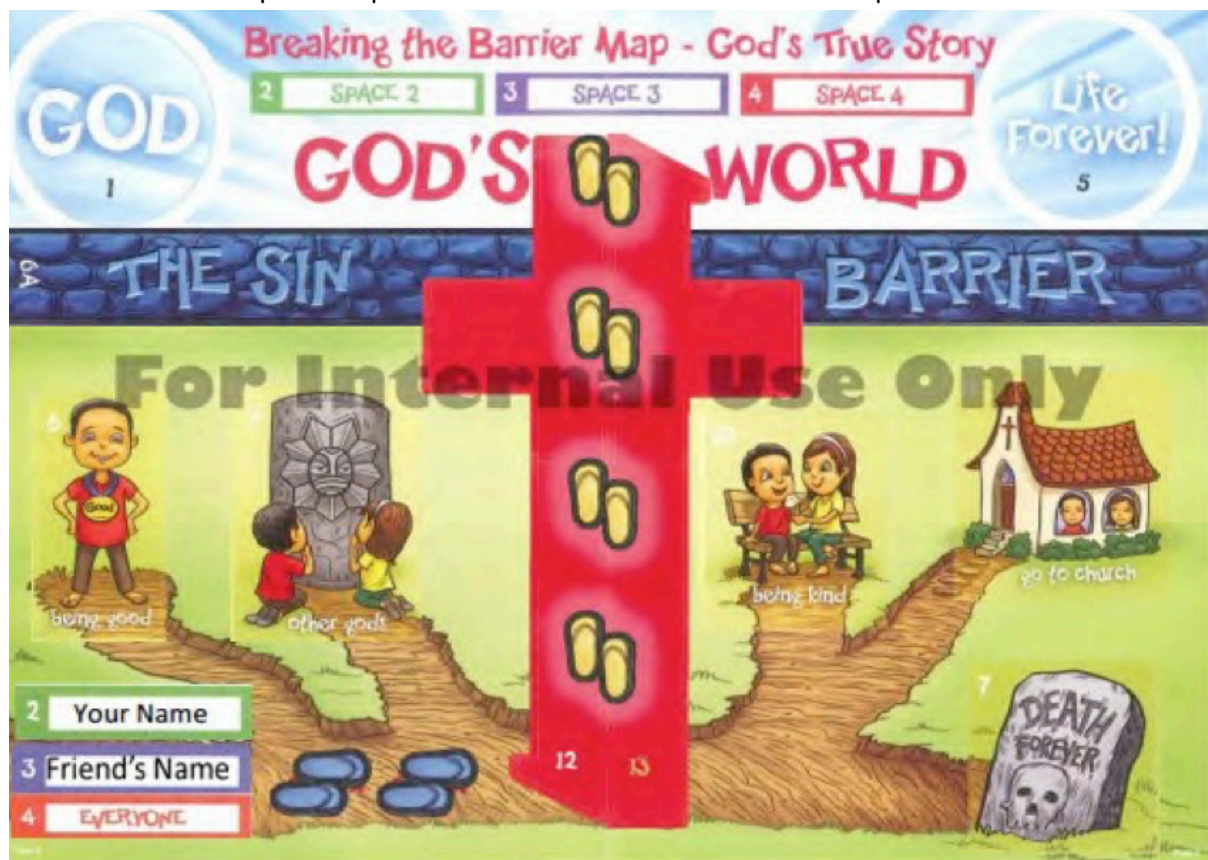
PICTURE 14






Why was the birth of Jesus so special? He was God's gift of love, peace and hope for the world. He came to save everyone.

“BREAKING THE BARRIER” ILLUSTRATION

“Breaking the Barrier” is a sticker booklet tool that GKidz uses to share the gospel with children in an interactive, understandable way. The booklets follows the sequence of the John 3:16 diagram, with a sticker to be pasted by the child at each step. The booklets includes a recommended script for what to say with each step, but the overview below is included for your early preparation if required.

Here is the completed picture after all the stickers are pasted:



<p>1. Explain to the children that we have a God who is great and who created the universe! He created the stars, moon, sun, trees, animals, everything! (Stick the "God" sticker)</p>	
<p>2. Tell the children that God created you and me, He created everyone! (Stick stickers 2, 3 and 4, and write "You" and "Me" in blanks 2 and 3)</p>	
<p>3. Share with the children that He created us so that He could spend life forever with us! (Stick the "Life Forever" sticker)</p>	
<p>4. Tell the children that man chose not to have life forever with God; instead man chose to do things their own way. They chose not to listen to God and instead they chose to do what is wrong. This is called sin. By choosing to sin, we build a sin barrier between God and us. (Stick the "Sin Barrier" sticker)</p>	
<p>5. Because of our choice to sin, we cannot be with God, because God is holy and pure. The more we choose to sin, the more we are separated from God. (Move the stickers down to the corresponding spaces at the bottom of the sheet)</p>	
<p>6. Explain to the children that because of this separation, we will no longer have life forever, but we will instead be led to death forever. (Stick the "Death Forever" sticker)</p>	

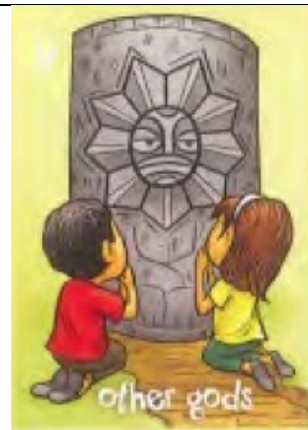
7. Help the children understand that we have tried many ways to get back to God. Sometimes we try to do good deeds, like helping the elderly, helping mummy wash the dishes, but no matter how much we do, we will not be good enough for God.

(Stick the "Being Good" sticker)



8. Sometimes, we choose to turn to other gods, but there is only one true God.

(Stick the "Other gods" sticker)



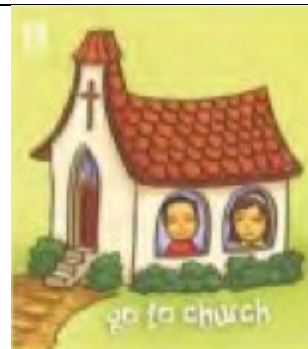
9. Sometimes, we also try to be kind to others, but you know what, we still love ourselves the most.

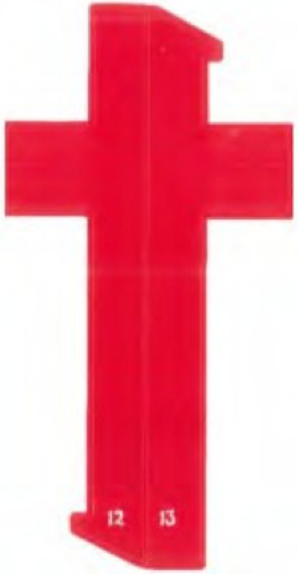
(Stick the "Being Kind" sticker)



10. And sometimes, we think we can get back to God by choosing to go to church, but going to church is not enough if we are still the same inside.

(Stick the "Going to Church" sticker)



<p>11. Remember, God created you and me. He loves us so much that He chose to send His Son, Jesus, down to earth. <i>(Stick the half of the cross pointing downwards)</i> That is why we celebrate Christmas - the birth of Jesus! God gave us the greatest gift of our lives. He is the Saviour of the world.</p>	
<p>12. When Jesus grew older, He chose to share with us through miracles and wonders, how much God loves us! But people still chose to sin. Do you think Jesus chose to give up on people at that time? No, He did not! Jesus chose to show us just how much He loves us by choosing to die on the cross for us! That was the ultimate price He could pay for our sins. And guess what, Jesus did not stay dead. Three days after He died on the cross, He rose again! And because He was no longer dead, He had the power over death and broke the sin barrier, giving us a way to go back to God again. <i>(Stick the other half of the cross pointing upwards)</i></p>	
<p>13. To return to God, all we need to do is to come to the cross <i>(Stick the blue pair of sandals on the path towards the cross)</i> and ask God to forgive your sins. <i>(Stick the gold pair of sandals up the cross)</i></p>	
<p>14. Tell the children that, "Today, Jesus wants you to know that He loves you, even when you have done wrong before. He has chosen to be your Friend, but He also gives you a choice. He is the greatest gift that you can ever receive this Christmas. Will you choose to allow Jesus into your heart as your Friend? Will you choose to allow Jesus to take away your sins and will you choose to follow Him?"</p>	
<p>15. If the children answer, "Yes", get them to repeat this prayer after you: "Dear Jesus, thank You for choosing to love me. Thank You that Your love for me never ends. Today, I am making a choice. I choose to love You. I choose You to be my Saviour and my Friend. Please forgive me for all the wrong things I have done. I choose to belong to You. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen."</p>	