



**MISSIONAL**

BECAUSE CHRIST CAME WE GO

**CHRISTMAS**

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE



# INTRODUCTION

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## INTRODUCTION TO MISSIONAL CHRISTMAS

Just as Jesus came into the world on a mission to bring redemption and salvation, we want to go and share His message. Our desire throughout this study is for our church to think outwardly when we are most vulnerable to thinking inward.

## PURPOSE OF THIS BOOKLET

The purpose of this booklet is to help you, your family, or your Growth Group to develop a heart for missions. Throughout the booklet, you will find different “Mission Emphasis” sections. We have created practical ways for you and your family to serve, give, and be in prayer for people outside of your normal “circles.”

We want to be very clear. These aren't random acts of kindness - these are opportunities to be on mission. Be ready to share why you are serving in this way. This is the example that Jesus set for us and we want to be like Him.

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## WEEK ONE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

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1. Take some time to read the passage aloud.
2. What is one thing that stood out to you from the sermon on Sunday?
3. Set the context:
  - When is this prayer taking place?
  - Who is Jesus praying to?
  - Who is He praying about (there are a few answers)?
4. What is the “big picture” point of verses 18-21?
5. In carrying out this mission, Jesus prays that His followers would be “sanctified in truth.”
  - According to verse 17, what is “truth?”
  - Why is it important for us to grow in the truth as we carry out His mission?
6. What kinds of responses should we expect to experience as we engage the world for the Gospel?
7. What fears or struggles are keeping you from sharing your faith?
  - What truths about God help you face those fears?
8. When was the last time you engaged in a conversation with a non-believing friend or family member about spiritual matters?
  - What kind of response did you receive?
9. In the face of negative responses and rejection, what gives us hope (verses 20-26)?
  - In trial and suffering, how do we encourage one another?
  - What role does the Word have in this process?
10. Take some time to pray that God would soften your heart for those who do not yet believe and give you boldness to share when given the opportunity.
  - Think of two people in your life who need Jesus. Pray for them.
  - What is one way you can purposefully connect with them this week to help them see Jesus?

## WEEK ONE MISSION EMPHASIS: OCC

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### WHAT ARE OCC BOXES?

Operation Christmas Child (OCC) is ministry of Samaritan's Purse. OCC boxes bless needy children around the world by providing them with a shoebox gift full of presents and The Greatest Gift, an engaging presentation of the Gospel in their own language. It costs \$9 to ship each box. Consider making a donation to cover the shipping costs of boxes collected at UBC.

### HOW TO PACK A BOX

**Step 1** - Start with an average-size cardboard or plastic shoebox. If you want to wrap it, cover the box and lid separately.

**Step 2** - Decide whether you will pack a box for a girl or a boy, and the age category: 2–4, 5–9, or 10–14.

**Step 3** - Fill your box with gifts. Select a medium to large “wow” item such as a soccer ball with pump or stuffed animal, then fill with other fun toys, hygiene items, and school supplies. Be sure to read “What goes in a box” as there are some prohibited items and great ideas for what to include in your boxes. You can read it by going to [universitybaptistchurch.com/occ](http://universitybaptistchurch.com/occ).

**Step 4** - Pray. Most importantly, pray for the child who will receive your gift. You can also include a personal note and photo.

**Step 5** - Drop your box off in the church lobby by December 8th.

For more information, go to [universitybaptistchurch.com/occ](http://universitybaptistchurch.com/occ).





## WEEK TWO DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

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1. Take some time to read the passage aloud.
2. What is one thing that stood out to you from the sermon on Sunday?
3. Verse 7 talks about giving cheerfully.
  - When you think of a cheerful giver, who comes to mind? Why?
4. Compare & contrast:
  - Sowing sparingly vs. sowing bountifully
  - Giving reluctantly vs. giving intentionally
  - Giving under compulsion vs. giving cheerfully
5. Which is the hardest for you to give - time, talent, or treasure?
  - Why is it so hard to give cheerfully?
6. How is this act of giving connected to righteousness (verses 6-10)?
7. In verse 12, Paul says there is a dual nature to giving:
  - To supply a need
  - To cause many to overflow in thanksgiving to God
    - What needs are you aware of among our church, in your Growth Group, or your neighborhood that you could support monetarily?
    - Pray that the Lord would both enrich the body (collectively) to provide for these needs and cause others to rejoice in Jesus because of this provision.
8. What is the indescribable gift referenced in verse 15? Finish your time by reflecting on the many ways that this indescribable gift has been shown to you and how you get the privilege of showing it to others.

## WEEK TWO MISSION EMPHASIS: MISSIONS GIVING

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### WHAT IS MISSIONS GIVING SUNDAY?

Sunday, Dec 8th, attendees will have the opportunity to designate portions of their financial offering to specific missions and outreach projects. This past year, God has graciously provided more than enough finances for UBC to meet the 2019 budget. More importantly, he has infinitely blessed us by giving the Lord Jesus to be our Savior. Therefore, we want to bless others just as we have been blessed.

### HOW DO I GIVE?

Offering envelopes will be provided so you easily designate your gift on a Sunday morning. Additionally, you can give specifically to all of the Missions Giving Sunday opportunities online.

*[universitybaptistchurch.com/donate](http://universitybaptistchurch.com/donate).*

### GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

**Mission Project #1** - H2O Church is a Collegiate Ministry on Wright State's campus. We are raising funds for H2O Church so that they can more effectively share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with more students. The funds given to H2O will be used to: a) provide scholarships for college students to participate in a 10-week leadership training this summer that equips them for campus ministry, and b) purchase a lighting rig for their meeting space.

*[www.h2owrightstate.com](http://www.h2owrightstate.com)*

**Mission Project #2** - Lottie Moon was a missionary in China. A yearly offering is taken in Lottie Moon's honor to raise funds for missions around the world. All donations go to missionaries that are on the field through their partnership with the International Mission Board (IMB).

*[www.imb.org](http://www.imb.org)*

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**Mission Project #3** - RIP Medical Debt is a service that provides financial relief for people in the Greater Dayton area who are burdened by unpaid and unpayable medical bills. Our donations are able to pay off their medical debt for pennies on the dollar. Our \$15,000 goal is to pay for the needs of people in Montgomery, Greene, and Clark counties.

*[www.ripmedicaldebt.org](http://www.ripmedicaldebt.org)*

**Mission Project #4** - Operation Christmas Child (OCC) is a ministry of Samaritan's Purse, a nondenominational evangelical Christian organization. OCC boxes bless needy children around the world by providing children with a shoebox gift full of presents and The Greatest Gift, an engaging presentation of the Gospel in their own language. It costs \$9 to ship each box. Consider making a donation to cover the shipping costs of boxes collected at UBC.

*[www.samaritanspurse.org](http://www.samaritanspurse.org)*



## WEEK THREE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

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1. Take some time to read the passage aloud.
2. What is one thing that stood out to you from the sermon on Sunday?
3. Share one selfless, serving act that has been done for you?
  - What were the short-term and long-term impacts?
4. Why is it so hard to consider others more significant than ourselves?
  - In what areas of our lives do selfish ambition & conceit creep in?
5. In verse 6, what does Paul mean when he says that Jesus did not count His equality with God as a thing to be grasped?
6. According to verses 7-8, describe Christ-like humility & servanthood.
  - How is that different than the world's view of service?
7. What is the goal of our humble service (verses 10-11)?
8. According to Philippians 2:15-16, humility sets the believer apart for a certain purpose "to be lights in the world."
  - Quickly scan Philippians 2:1-18. What are some attributes of this "light?"
    - For personal reflection: do these attributes characterize you?
    - To ensure our serving is not in vain, what do we "hold fast" (verse 16)?
9. How can you or your Growth Group humbly serve those around you? Be specific and make a plan to follow through. To learn how you, your family, and/or Growth Group can serve others, see the "Mission Emphasis" on the next page.
10. Spend some time praying for the humility to be "a light" and pray for those you will serve.

## WEEK THREE MISSION EMPHASIS: SERVE OTHERS

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### WHY WE SERVE OTHERS

These aren't random acts of kindness - these are opportunities to be on mission. Be ready to share why you are serving in this way. This is the example that Jesus set for us and we want to be like Him. You can also invite those you serve to join us on Christmas Eve to hear the clear message of Jesus.

### SERVING IDEAS

1. Help your neighbors with snow removal
  - Think of the elderly, sick, or those with a deployed spouse.
2. Provide hot beverages to those working outdoors
  - Construction workers, bell ringers, police officers. Everyone loves a hot drink when it's cold.
3. Deliver baked goods or thank you cards to a fire station, police station, or hospital employees
  - They have hard jobs and they hold our community together. They deserve appreciation.
4. Put a card or gift in your mailbox for your mail carrier
  - Turn the tables by delivering something kind to someone who visits your house every day.
5. Babysit for a young couple so they can have a date night
  - Young parents are tired and rarely get time alone. Just sitting with their kids for a few hours goes a long way.
6. Everyone loves to feel a part of a family, take time to welcome this person into your family
  - They may be a widow/widower or they may be single. Invite them to spend Christmas with your family.
7. Give your children money that they must use to serve someone else
  - Teach your kids to give by allowing them to serve others.
  - Intentionally providing opportunities for your children to serve others influences and molds a servant's heart.

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### VOLUNTEER AT A CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION

1. Serve a meal to the homeless
  - Bridges of Hope (Xenia) Jill Conkel 937-901-3990 [jillconkel@gmail.com](mailto:jillconkel@gmail.com) or House of Bread (Dayton) [houseofbread.org](http://houseofbread.org) | 937-226-1520
2. Wait tables at a small “pay what you can afford” restaurant
  - One Bistro (Xenia) 937-736-2358 | [info@onebistro.org](mailto:info@onebistro.org) | [onebistro.org](http://onebistro.org)
3. Sort and deliver shoes to kids in desperate need with Shoes 4 the Shoeless.
  - [Shoes4theshoeless.org/volunteer](http://Shoes4theshoeless.org/volunteer)
4. Provide classroom supplies to teachers and students in poverty-stricken areas with Crayons to Classrooms.
  - [dc2c.org](http://dc2c.org) | 937-528-6400 | [c.rausch@dc2c.org](mailto:c.rausch@dc2c.org)



## WEEK FOUR DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

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1. Take some time to read the passage aloud.
2. What is one thing that stood out to you from the sermon on Sunday?
3. Where do you see the most obvious racial/ethnic divides today?
  - What are some less-obvious racial/ethnic divides?
4. What percentage of your life has been spent with people of other races, ethnicities, or cultures?
  - What have you learned from those experiences with people of other races, ethnicities, and cultures?
5. What is the “good news” that the angel referred to?
  - Who is the intended audience of this good news (Luke 1:50-55, 67-75; Luke 2:12)?
6. The angel’s message was “for all people.” Why was this significant to mention during that time?
7. Read Ephesians 2:11-22. How does this passage show the unifying of diverse cultures?
  - What is at the center of that unity (what drives it)?
8. What difference would it make if diversity was even more of a reality in your life and church?
9. How can you build a bridge with someone who has a different cultural background?
10. Spend some time praying that God would help you and UBC to grow an even deeper love for “all people” and that we would continue to grow more and more diverse as we reach our community.

## WEEK FOUR MISSION EMPHASIS: CONNECT CROSS-CULTURALLY

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### PRACTICAL STEPS TO CONSIDER:

- 1. Coffee or Lunch** - Invite a person from a different ethnic background to get lunch or coffee (could be a neighbor, co-worker, friend or etc). Strongly consider someone who does not dress, talk or live very similar to you.
- 2. Local Cross-Cultural Visits** - Consider getting lunch or visiting a part of Dayton with a friend or co-worker who lives in ethnically/culturally different place from you. Ask them about a good place to eat (e.g. fried fish, bbq place, international cuisine) in their environment.
- 3. International Student Meals** - The colleges/universities in our area are filled with international students, especially Wright State University. Consider working with some of the student organizations (such as Cru or International Friendships Incorporated) to have a meal with international students/families over the next few months. Maybe your Growth Group could host a meal for internationals at our church building.
- 4. Attend an International Church** - Consider setting aside a Sunday to visit a church that is predominantly made up of people from a different race or nationality. Pastor Jason has spoken several times at Dayton Chinese Christian Church and is happy to recommend them as a like-minded church for your consideration.

In all four of these, concentrate on asking intentional questions about what makes their cultures unique. Listen and learn. Ask clarifying questions to make sure you understand them.





## CHRISTMAS EVE PERSONAL REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

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1. For fun:
  - What is the worst gift you've ever received for Christmas?
  - What is the greatest gift you've ever received for Christmas?
    - Why was this gift so great?
2. Why is the tradition of gift-giving so important at Christmas?
3. Take some time to read the passage.
4. Why was Herod troubled by the news of Jesus' birth?
5. How did the wise men respond to the birth of Jesus?
  - What did their worship look like?
  - Why was their response so different from Herod's?
6. Why is the message of Jesus so polarizing (some rejoicing while others hating)?
7. How are you responding to Jesus this Christmas?
  - Are you threatened by His authority over you?
  - Are you cold/indifferent to a story you've heard so many times?
  - Are you drawn to bold, sacrificial worship as you remember His birth?
8. Think of one person you know who is not worshipping Jesus this Christmas? How can you reach out to and encourage them this holiday season?
  - Pray and ask the Lord to help you and this person to see, once again, what Christmas is really about.
  - Take a step to reach out to this person (text, call, visit, etc.).
9. However you plan to spend your Christmas day, commit to pray and thank God for sending His Son as the ultimate gift before you start your traditions or festivities. MERRY CHRISTMAS!

WE WOULD LOVE TO FOR YOU TO JOIN US ON

# CHRISTMAS EVE

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[UNIVERSITYBAPTISTCHURCH.COM/CHRISTMAS](http://UNIVERSITYBAPTISTCHURCH.COM/CHRISTMAS)



**MISSION & VISION:**

Our mission is to glorify God by making disciples of Jesus Christ.

**LOCATION:**

2223 Hanes Road Beaver Creek, OH 45432

**CONTACT:**

937-426-3966

[contact@universitybaptistchurch.com](mailto:contact@universitybaptistchurch.com)

**SERMONS:**

[universitybaptistchurch.com/sermons](http://universitybaptistchurch.com/sermons)

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