

Sunday Celebration

Introducing Jesus...

The Sunday Celebration team would like to extend a massive thank you to everyone who has attended the Sunday Celebration services this year. It has been wonderful to see the church so full each month and to see the congregation embracing and encouraging visitors over coffee after each service. We have had such wonderful feedback following each Sunday Celebration that we have decided to keep with this format for another year.

So, in 2018 we will be Introducing Jesus... We hope that this series will not only introduce new comers to the person of Jesus but will also help mature Christians to re-examine their relationship with their Saviour as we explore His many characteristics.

- 7th January – Jesus is God
- 4th February – Jesus the Creator
- 4th March – Jesus the Righteous Rebel
- 1st April – Jesus is Alive
- 6th May – Jesus Loves You
- 3rd June – Jesus and the Law
- 1st July – Jesus the Healer
- 5th August – Jesus the Bread of Life
- 2nd September – Jesus the Teacher
- 7th October – Jesus the Lord of the Harvest
- 4th November – Jesus the Way to Heaven
- 2nd December – Jesus is Coming

‘But what about you?’ he asked. ‘Who do you say I am?’

Matthew 16:15 Mark 8:29 Luke 9:20

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Jesus is God

January's Sunday Celebration focused on the story of the 3 Kings. We found out the Magi were actually highly intelligent, non-Jewish wizards who travelled for 2 years to find the God most high, so that they could give him some very weird birthday presents.

We used the carol *We Three Kings* to help us identify the meanings of the gifts the Magi brought:

Gold signified this child was a King

Frankincense signified that this child was God

Myrrh signified that this child was born to die

The Magi had spent a lot of time around Jewish people, learning their stories and the meanings behind them so they understood who Jesus was: King and God and Sacrifice.

When God put the star in the sky over Bethlehem he was announcing to the world, I'm here! He was announcing his arrive to everyone, not just the Jews.

We were then asked to think about how we respond to Jesus, our King and God and Sacrifice. Do we give him our best gifts? The children were given some laminated gift cards so that they could write or draw what gifts they would like to offer God.

"The King of kings came down to earth as a baby to be God among us and then sacrificed His sinless life so that we can have eternal life. So, as we think about our new year resolutions, or lifestyle alterations, or new year prompts, or life audits, or whatever we are calling them this year, can we also think about how we can respond to Jesus. What gifts will we offer to Jesus as our King of kings, God of all creation and the sacrifice for our sin? Amen"

Next month: 4th February – Jesus the Creator

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Jesus the Creator

The Youth Group did a wonderful job in leading February’s Sunday Celebration. Starting with a little Q&A session the Youth Group established that the Bible is made of two parts; the Old and New Testaments. The Old is before Jesus was born and the New starts with Jesus’s birth. They then used a parallel reading of John 1 and Genesis 1 to show how the Bible tells us that Jesus was actually there in creation.

Voice 1 (John 1.1-5)	Voice 2 (Genesis 1.1-5)
In the beginning...	In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth...
the Word was with God, and the Word was God.	the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep...
The Word was in the beginning with God.	while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.
In the beginning was the Word...	God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light.
All things came into being through him... What has come into being through him was life, and the life was the light of all people.	God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.
The light shines in the darkness...	God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night.
The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.	

With the clever use of props we heard how Jesus created the earth, flowers, prawns and worms (cue sweets for the children!) and lightsabers... No, not lightsabers!!! ...but he did create man, and he loves his creation!

Next month: 4th March – Jesus the Righteous Rebel

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