

Christmas Session

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Today we are going to be making traditional Christmas wreaths which you can take home and hang on your front door or have inside on a table with a candle in the middle.

We have lots of greenery, ribbons and extra decorations. Once we have had a demonstration how to make it and you have begun to get the hang of it and got yourself more coffee, I would like to share with you the story of the Christmas wreath. This is because there is a lot of symbolism in it and it is very Christmassy!



Wreath Evangelistic Talk

As we are making wreaths, I thought I would tell you some of the Christian symbolism of the wreath or the original Christmas wreath.

Firstly the circular shape of the wreath: who has seen the musical the Lion King or the film? Well there is a song in it called 'the circle of life' -anyone know it? Well actually the lyrics are a bit depressing as it is basically saying you end up where you began (the circle), which is really nothingness. Well the wreath is much more positive as the circle shape represents eternal life, an everlasting life.

All the evergreen foliage, the spruce, holly, ivy, show the same – everlasting just like evergreen leaves don't die in winter, but last always.

Everlasting life is all to do with Jesus, who came down at Christmas. Jesus is God's rescue plan. As parents, it is a great idea to have some rescue plans in place eg what is my plan when my child has a tantrum in the supermarket; or what is my plan when my child has a

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meltdown on Christmas day, how on earth am I going to rescue the situation from disaster!?!??

So, God has a rescue plan for us – more on what this is in a minute.....you see, just like parents want to rescue their kids from a difficult situation, so God is acting like a father, in fact he describes himself as a father in the Bible – a loving, kind, patient, understanding Heavenly Father, who wants to help us, and he will help us if we'll ask Him.

Back to the rescue plan idea: Jesus is God's rescue plan: Jesus grew up, from that cute Christmas baby in a manger and lived a life of service and sacrifice and courage to speak the truth. Finally he died on a cross, even this was not a mistake or failure but part of the plan, a plan to save us from eternal death, he died as a sacrifice, which would take away our sin, our shame, our hurt, all the bad we do including ignoring God, which really is what most saddens God, because he so desires a relationship with us, for our very own good. Jesus, that Christmas baby, didn't stay dead, but is alive and well in heaven!

So back to the wreath, the red berries have meaning too. In some cultures the berries represent fertility – so watch out!! But that is not the case in this wreath, they represent something seemingly less positive, which is Jesus' blood on the cross. But the cross actually brought a way to be forgiven and to come to God, which brings life, that everlasting life, instead of eternal death and separation from God, which is not good. So the red blood berries bring life. So in a funny kind of way the bringing of life from the fertility idea, is kind of right too as it is all about new life.

The sharp holly represents the crown of thorns worn by Jesus on the cross.

So that is the symbolism of the wreath and it is no wonder it is used as a joyful decoration for celebration- Christmas is a celebration, of an amazing rescue plan to bring us close to God.

Thank you for listening! This is pretty difficult to understand or grasp and I cannot explain more now but if you would like to know more then please do talk to me or other leaders or mums or maybe consider joining a low key course called Christianity Explored that we run here. It is simply an opportunity to learn more and discuss with no pressures and no obligations.