



Advent & Christmas Assembly 2024

Christmas Assembly 2024 – *Reaching The Goal*; based on The Wise Men (Matt. 2) (KS 3,4 & 5). How a worthwhile goal can motivate us on our journey toward it.

Cluster covered: commitment & contemplation. Disposition covered: Being Silent and Attentive to, and Cultivating a Sense for, the Sacred and Transcendence; Being Hopeful and Visionary).

Layers covered:

(U) We should all seek to better not just ourselves but also the lives of others and our world at large.

(T) God created us all as spiritual beings – he made everyone to know Him & serve others, and He has placed within us all a desire to find meaning, purpose & fulfilment in Him.

(FS) Christians believe that God the Father gave to our broken world the gift of the Son, Jesus, to save people from their sins, offering all who trust in Him an unending friendship with God and a future with Him to look forward to – this is a goal that is truly worthwhile.

Script with accompanying Powerpoint:

(Suggested divisions: P1 = Person 1 (BCM). P2 = Person 2 (Church Partner)).
(When students are entering the hall Display (title) **Slide 1** (some quotes).

PART A (2 min) (When teacher is handing over to you display Title **Slide**).

P1

(NAME) from (**Click X2**) Birmingham City Mission, a local Christian charity that serves people in need. And we do this alongside (**Slide**) local church partners.

[If Local Church partner is co-delivering say: 'including (NAME OF PERSON) from (NAME OF CHURCH)]

[NB. If church is delivering solo they briefly mention BCM before mentioning their church in particular]

(Slide) So, we're approaching Christmas & another year has nearly gone! We are in the season of advent when followers of Jesus, such as myself, prepare to celebrate his birth that first Christmas over 2,000 years ago. During this season, many people also reflect on the past 12 months.

P2

(Slide) This year has seen some *big concerts* whether it be Travis Scott or Taylor Swift. Fans would spend hours in online queues to purchase costly tickets – because they were determined to *be there*, to see their favourite act perform live.

(Slide) We've also seen some *big sporting events* this past year such as Wimbledon, the Euros, Test cricket and the Olympic & Paralympic games. The athletes would have gone on a strict diet & training programme for years leading up to the Olympics.

What would have driven them on was a determination to *reach their Goal* **(slide)**, to *make it* to the games and to win that medal. And, maybe by the end, they'll have found that it was *worth* the effort.

(Slide) In some ways, we're all on a journey in life as we search for meaning, true fulfilment and a sense of purpose. The people we are looking at today also sought to do this. Let's see more in this video (**Slide & click** to play):

[PART B [(approx. 7 min 30 in total – nearer to 8 mins if church shares)]
VIDEO (1) – the story of the Wise Men (Rich) – (04.05). See transcript & summary of video on Script sheet.

P1

(Click). As the Wise Men looked at Jesus, they may have realised that the long journey they had taken was *nothing* compared to the journey *he* had taken to be with them. Persia to Judea is far enough, but *heaven to earth* is *infinitely* further.

(Slide) This past year marked the 55th anniversary of the 1969 Apollo 11 mission to the moon. Colonel James Irwin, who later visited the moon, said **(slide)**: '*Jesus walking on the earth is more important than man walking on the moon.*'

Christians like Colonel Irwin believe that Jesus **(Slide)** is also 'God the Son', 'God with us', as the Bible describes him; and before He came into this world, He had always been in heaven, a perfect place, with God the Father. But he

willingly came *down* from heaven to *this* broken and troubled world. The Bible also teaches that He took on human form and became a baby through the power of The Holy Spirit. He would grow up to experience our human pains and emotions, and would live a life of love to his neighbour and to his enemies. Let's see more through this **video**: (**Slide** & **click** to play):

VIDEO (2) – Jesus' coming, identity & mission (Rianne) (02:00s). See transcript of video on Script sheet.

P1

(Click). One of the ways that Christians show their worship and thanks to Jesus – for all He has done - is to love the people he made – to serve people regardless of where they come from or what they believe. That's why we at Birmingham City Mission serve: **(Slide)** the homeless through our Care Centre, **(Slide)** older people through visiting them in their homes & care homes; **(Slide)** those struggling to make ends meet through our resource centre, food bank and charity shop; and **(Slide)** children through our Christmas present project,

Toylink.

We are able to give gifts to people in need because hundreds of people, schools and businesses have given to us.

Our goal at BCM is to bring joy, comfort and hope.

P2

[Optional: Church partner to share about any of their projects that serve their local community bringing hope = 20/30 secs]

PART C [about 2 min 30 sec in length. Nearer to 3 min with reflection]

P2

So, we've seen how for:

(Slide) *Jesus*, his goal in rescuing people motivated him to make *his great journey*;

(Slide) how for the *Magi*, their *goal of seeing Jesus* motivated them to make *their epic journey*;

(Slide) When we have a worthwhile goal it can motivate us to *journey* towards it

(Slide) I'm going to end with three questions for you to think about and reflect on:

Firstly, (slide) I wonder, **what are your goals in life? And are they worthwhile?**

Celebrities and Influencers often tell us that we need to aim at this or that in order to 'make it' in life. But here are some goals that are definitely worthwhile: - finding the answers to the big questions in life or doing something good for your family, friends or those in need. Maybe it's learning new skills or even just getting that little bit better at a game, hobby, or sport.

Secondly, (click) I wonder, **have you already tried reaching a goal but you've found it so hard that you've almost up?** Well, the Wise Men could easily have turned back, but they would have missed out on seeing Jesus!....You may not reach your goal straightaway but through perseverance you can get there.

Thirdly, (click) I wonder, **do you ever stop to look up?** The Wise men took time to *look up* at the stars and *explore* the bigger, spiritual side of life; and it inspired them to go on a journey of discovery.

I wonder if *you* ever *pause* amid the fast pace nature of life? To disconnect from screens, *to look up* and see the beauty around you? To see nature, sunsets, and stars. To be silent, to refresh yourself mentally & physically - that's a worthwhile goal.

P1

(Slide) So, you've heard how for Christians, Christmas is primarily about Jesus, this great gift to the world. But, whether you share my Christian faith or not, may you *all* this season and always do what the Wise Men did:- *look up* and make your journeys toward worthwhile goals.

[NB. Reflection - either a short or longer reflection:

Short reflection: 'I will leave these three questions up (**slide**) for you to reflect on as I hand back over to your teacher now. Thank you.'

Slightly longer reflection (for where there's time) - hold a moment (10-15 sec) of silence for quiet reflection, thus): 'We're now going to have a few moments of quiet reflection. To consider these 3 questions again which are on the screen, and how we might put them into practice.'

(Optional addition, where you feel comfortable): 'Those of you of faith *may* want to silently ask God to help you in doing these things. But others here may wish to reflect on what you've heard today.... Thank you.']