

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – December 25, 2022

Theme: The World Earnestly Awaits Your Manifestation Topic: Proclaim the Good News

Main Texts: Isaiah 9:6-7 & 2 Timothy 4:1-5

Key verse: 2 Tim 4:2 – *“Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.” (NKJV)*

INTRODUCTION: *‘Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.’ (Luke 2:10).* The angel proclaimed the good news of His birth to the shepherds while they kept watch over their flock by night. It was such good news that the angelic host joined to sing, celebrate, and praise God. To everyone that heard of His birth, it was not just a good news, but the best news: Mary (Luke 1:46-56), Elizabeth, the mother of John; even John as a baby in the womb leaped with joy (Luke 1: 41-45); the shepherds; the wise men from the east; Simeon (the man in the temple – Luke 2:25-35); Anna (a prophetess in the temple – Luke 2:36-38). Matthew’s record told us that when the Angel visited Joseph he said, *“And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins”.* To all in Israel, this is the news long awaited.

1. **Read Isaiah 9:6-7; Matthew 1:20-21; Luke 4: 17- 21. (a) What is the good news? (b) Why is the message of Christ’s birth and the message of the kingdom called the good news? (c) Let one or two participants share how this good news about Christ became real in their lives.**

But it was not just His birth, His life brought joy, and good to many who encountered Him and His teachings. Acts 10:38 (NKJV) summed it up thus: *“how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.”* His suffering, death and resurrection also brought life and forgiveness to many. The latest news now is that ‘Man can be reconciled to God by what Jesus has accomplished.’ This good news, the gospel, has been the vehicle by which all that God has done in Christ can be made known to mankind (Romans 1:16). When he had completed His assignment here on earth, Jesus commanded His disciples to continue from where He stopped, which today we call the great commission (Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16: 16). As the Matthew 28:19, and 2 Corinthians 5:18-20 show, the command to continue Christ’s work extends to every believer. We are to be God’s partners in this task. (2 Corinthians 5:18-20). Like Apostle Paul says, we are not just to preach this gospel, but to live and personify this good news (2 Corinthians 2:14-17).

2. **Read Romans 1:14-16; 2 Timothy 4:2; 1 Peter 3:15-16 (a) From these verses, let participants identify the qualities needed for effective proclamation of the good news. (b) How can a believer who finds him/herself lacking in any of these qualities develop these qualities? (c) What opportunities do you see for proclaiming the good news in your sphere of influence? And what personal challenges would you need to overcome to make the most of these opportunities for proclaiming the good news?**

The preaching of the gospel is not only important because of the birth of Christ or the church, but it is also central to God’s end time agenda. Jesus told His disciples, *“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.”* (Matthew 24:14). God’s agenda in saving the nations is hinged on believers sharing this gospel to the ends of the earth. Apostle Paul saw the need for proclaiming the gospel as an obligation which he embraced eagerly (Romans 1:14-15). What God has accomplished for mankind through Christ – His birth, suffering, death, burial, and resurrection - must be declared by all means possible, for men to believe and receive the gift of God which is in Christ Jesus. But there are challenges (difficulties, and oppositions) we must first overcome. So, God says be prepared, don’t be ashamed, be patient, gentle as we go about this task. It is not easy preaching the gospel now, and it will never get easier. Just like Jesus promised, it will only get tougher and riskier as we draw nearer to the end of time.

3. **Read 2 Timothy 4: 3-4; Matthew 24: 9-14 (a) How do you feel reading about the obstacles to the proclamation of the gospel mentioned in these verses? (b) How are we experiencing these difficulties and what does Scripture command us to do? (c) Why do you think God insists we tell others the good news despite the challenges and attendant risks? See Romans 10:13-15.**

Prayer: *Father, thank You for giving us Your son, who came, suffered, died for our sins, and rose again for our life. This is the good news that has changed our lives. Give us the grace to live and share this good news to the world around us till He returns. Amen.*