

I hope you'll give me your attention for just 10 mins.

I wonder what the **best news that you heard in the last week; last month; or last year was?---**(SLIDE)

The best news you heard?-----

That you passed that music exam?

You clocked that game? Your team won the final, or you graduated grade 6?

Or maybe you passed your exams, got into that course, or got that job?-----

Maybe the test result was all clear?

Or the baby arrived safe and well?-----

When a baby arrives safe and well it is good news and should be celebrated

But we read today about the birth of a particular baby.

And what makes this baby more special than all the others?-----

Well, it's the good news that he is the Saviour, the rescuer.----

In **Luke 2**, the angel told the shepherds, "I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people."

(SLIDE) <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.-----

Jesus is the Saviour, and the Messiah, the Christ – meaning he'll rule and rescue God's people.-----

We heard lots of passages that spoke about Jesus' birth.

And the Christmas concert so helpfully and clearly helped us think about the eternal significance of Jesus' birth, and how we should respond.

Thank you Kirsty Harrison for that great script.

And as we heard the narrator say,

- Jesus' purpose on earth was to save people from their sins.
- Believe in Jesus and be saved for eternity.

And for a moment, I want us to think about what it means for Jesus to **be the Saviour**.

But if he's going to be our Saviour, it means we must admit we need 'saving'.

Admit we've sinned

As the narrator said, None of us are perfect, we've all rebelled and ignored God.---

Our sin is all the times we've said 'No' to God.

All the times we want to be the boss of our own lives.

Even all the ways we love other things more than God

The happiness, money, friends, toys, winning, we loved more than God.

Our sin means we'll be cut off from God and experience a forever death.

Like this picture(SLIDE) shows.-----

But that gap, is not one we can jump over by being good enough, or by making-up-for our sins. No.

The gap is a huge canyon.-----

In 2018, my wife Kirsti and I got to visit the **Grand Canyon** – and it is huge, and these pictures don't show how huge it is.(SLIDE)

We got to walk out over the edge on that glass bottom platform.-----

The Grand canyon is about 1 ½ kilometers wide on average, and 180 meters wide at its narrowest.

So the shortest gap is 14 buses long.(SLIDE)

And it's drop about a 1.6km, 123 buses deep.-----

I couldn't jump across that. I'd just to my death.-----

Even Olympic long-jumpers, can't leap 1 bus.

So even the best of the best would still fall to their death.-----

Like that,(SLIDE) we are separated from God, and we can't get to him and the eternal life he offers.

And we're left facing death and a judgement we deserve for saying No to God.

We're powerless to cross by ourselves. Powerless to save ourselves.

But what does God do?-----**(SLIDE)** He sends a **Saviour**, his own Son.  
Mary was told her Son will be the Son of God.(Luke 1.36)  
And the Son of God Jesus lived a sinless life, of 100% love for God & love for others.  
Then he died in our place, as our substitute on the cross.  
As the narrator said, Jesus took the punishment and died in our place, so we could come out blameless.  
Jesus dies to give us relationship with God, to give us eternal life.  
He didn't deserve to die but he died so we could live.  
So that we can get across the gap.-----  
Only through Jesus can we escape death and hell, and get eternal life with God.-----

The angel told the shepherds, Today a Saviour has been born to you, for you.  
And this is exactly what Jesus himself would later say.  
Over 30 years later, Jesus would say in **John 6(SLIDE)**  
<sup>40</sup> "my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him will have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day."

**What does 'eternal life' mean for all who believe in Jesus?**

It means we get forgiveness of our sins – NOW!  
We get a relationship with God as a loving heavenly Father – NOW  
We get the promise that we won't be judged and go to hell.-----  
We get the presence of the Holy Spirit – NOW – the guarantee of eternal life.  
And when we die, we don't stay dead, we go to be with Jesus.  
And one day we'll get new, immortal, sinless bodies, in a joy-filled new creation.

Eternal life in the new creation. All through Jesus.-----

You want that don't you?-----

**So how do you receive eternal life, and be saved?----(SLIDE)-----**

Believe and trust in Jesus, the Son of God.---  
When you choose to say 'No' to sin, No to rejecting and ignoring God; and in your heart n' mind rely on Jesus, you will be saved.  
Trusting Jesus saves.  
It really is the best news. And you want that, don't you?  
I hope you want it, more than whatever other good news you had this year.  
More than awards, friends and family, health and happiness.  
Jesus is the eternal Saviour – it's the best news ever.**(SLIDE)**  
It changed my life when I was about 8 – I knew I had forgiveness, and God as my Father who loved me.-----  
Even for me now, Being saved by Jesus is the best thing ever.  
So **trust in him today**.-----  
And if you've decided to do that for the first time, please come and tell me, as I'd want us to help you follow him.-----

But if you're a kid or an adult and you already trust him.  
Remind yourself how good it is to be saved by Jesus.  
We can forget how amazing this good news is, and focus on other things.  
So remember how Jesus' salvation is the best!  
Whoever looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life.  
As the Narrator said:  
This is the most life-altering, game-changing, history-making, eternity-shaping news for everyone. Let's pray.