



# Expect The Unexpected



## THE MISSION AIM

God works in creative and surprising ways.



## KEY VERSE

Isaiah 55:8: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways,' declares the Lord."



## Pre-Mission Activity



## Supplies Needed

- White paper
- White crayons
- Watercolour paint
- Paint brushes
- Water
- Newspaper for the table
- Paper
- Pencils or crayons

## Directions

**DO:** Allow the recruits to create surprise pictures. Have them draw pictures using white crayons on white paper. Then they can either paint over the paper themselves or give the paper to another recruit to paint over and see the surprise picture. As they work you could ask them about how the waiting was last week and about how their plant is growing.

AND/OR

**DO:** Fold a piece of paper into three parts across its width. Have one person use the top third to draw a head while others look away. Then have them fold the head over and draw a small neck so it can be seen but the head cannot. Have another person draw a body that is attached to the neck lines, then fold the page over and create places for the legs to begin. Have a final person draw the legs. Once each person has had a chance to draw, open the picture to see what has been created.



## Mission Uplink 1



Have ready YouTube playlist: "Season 2 – The Christmas Promise Episode 2: Expect the Unexpected"

Play "The Christmas Promise (S2) Episode 2 (1/4)". Episode begins with the *Ready to Serve* theme song, followed automatically by the MISSION # 1 VIDEO. Pause the video when the MISSION # 1 CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete Mission # 1.

If using PPT for video, have Christmas-Episode\_2-Expect\_The\_Unexpected.pptx ready and play slide one. Pause on the MISSION # 1 CARD so you and your recruits can complete Mission # 1.



## Mission #1



### Supplies Needed

- Bag full of items that include enticing things for recruits to choose as a small gift i.e. new pencils, chocolate bars, markers, juice box, etc. and then some garbage items i.e. an old pop can, broken pencils, paper that's written on and then A CRUMPLED PAPER WITH \$5 HIDDEN INSIDE OF IT
- Have the key verse Isaiah 55:8: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways," declares the Lord." written out with each word and the reference written on separate pieces of paper for the recruits to put together to display. Once you have the words written on the papers, crumple them up into balls



**NOTE** Squad Leader, if you have a larger group and need more than one key verse written out, then use different coloured paper or a different coloured marker for each verse to distinguish them.



### Mission Assignment

**SAY:** That was all a bit strange wasn't it? I'm not sure what to expect. Maybe our mission will help us out. Let's give a drum roll for mission # 1, (reading mission card from satellite uplink). "Expect the unexpected!"

**SAY:** What? What kind of mission is this? That just sounds totally confusing. You know, maybe we should do something to get our mind off of how crazy this all is. Oh, I know what we can do. I've been cleaning out at home to find Christmas decorations. I happened to clear out a drawer and found a few things I'd forgotten about. Let's see what I found.

**DO:** Bring out the bag of items. Put each item on the table or on a tray as you comment on each one. For example: "Oh, I forgot I had that brand new pencil in there. Cool!"; "That's where that chocolate bar got to that I'd hidden from \_\_\_\_\_ (insert name)"; "Oops, an old pop can"; "Oh hey, that's where that other chocolate bar got to"; "Oh no, a piece of garbage", etc.

**SAY:** Well, since it's Christmas I might as well share a couple of things.

**DO:** Choose a couple of quiet sitting recruits to come up and quickly choose an item.

**SAY:** Glad to have shared with you.

(If no one picks the crumpled up paper) **SAY:** You picked some great treats. Let's take a look at what didn't get chosen.



**DO:** Open up the crumpled paper.

**SAY:** Oh that's where I put that \$5 last year. I was wondering what I'd done with it. It must have gotten crumpled with all of the paper I had lying around while I was wrapping presents. What a great surprise! So sorry none of you picked it.

(If someone picks the crumpled paper with the money inside) **SAY:** Wow! Was that a surprise or what? Did you expect to find that there? I was wondering where that gift money had gotten to last year.

**SAY:** Life is full of surprises. What are some of the surprises that you have experienced in life?

**DO:** Give recruits a moment to think for themselves, then tell a partner and then share as a group. (Surprise parties, surprise visit, surprise test, surprise gift)

**SAY:** Expecting the unexpected is something we need to get used to with God. He really doesn't think the way that we do. In fact, there is a verse in the Bible that sums it up perfectly. Let's take a look at it. You don't expect me to tell you the verse do you?

**DO:** Toss the crumpled pieces of paper with words from Isaiah 55:8 on the floor and have the recruits straighten them out and put the verse together as a team.

**DO:** Help the recruits put the pieces together if necessary.

**SAY:** I guess God is a God who does the unexpected. I'm excited to find out what's going to happen next. Let's get back to the team to find out. Maybe Sarai and Ashlie have ideas about their situations.



### Mission Uplink 2



YouTube: Play "The Christmas Promise (S2) Episode 2 (2/4)". Pause the video when the MISSION # 2 CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete Mission # 2.

PPT: Click to advance to next slide. Pause video when MISSION #2 CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete Mission # 2.



### Mission #2



### Supplies Needed

- The following wrapped gifts with the appropriate number written on each one:
  1. Bible with a book mark at Luke 1
  2. Angel (paper or decoration)
  3. Baby (doll or picture of one)
  4. Angel (paper or decoration)
  5. Baby (doll or picture of one)





## Mission Assignment

**SAY:** I can't believe we still don't know what Sarai or Ashlie have decided to do. This whole suspense thing is driving me crazy. Anyway, we'd best move on! Mission # 2 drum roll please... (Read mission card from satellite uplink) "Recruits, find out what happened when angels visited Zechariah, Elizabeth and Mary. Were there any surprises?"

**SAY:** Speaking of surprises, last week we had a present in the corner during our time together and didn't get to see it until the very end. Well, today you might notice a number of packages around the room. I'm going to choose one of the best sitters to see if they can find package number one.

**DO:** Give someone a chance to go and find the package.

**SAY:** Go ahead and open it... Wow, a Bible! Can I see it? It looks like it's marked at Luke 1. Why don't I take a moment and read Luke 1:5-10 for you?

**DO:** Read with enthusiasm.

**SAY:** So basically we have a couple here who loved God and served Him with all of their hearts. Zechariah is a priest at the temple and Elizabeth was his wife of many years. But they are sad because they don't have any children. Let's see what's next, who can get package number two for us?

**DO:** Send someone to get it.

**SAY:** Okay, open it up...an angel? Mmmm! What could this mean? Let's keep reading from Luke and find out.

**DO:** Read Luke 1:11-22.

**SAY:** So an angel came and surprised, well quite frankly, scared Zechariah and told him he would have a son and he was to name him John. This son was going to bring people back to God and prepare the way for the Lord, for Jesus. Then because Zechariah questioned the angel, he wasn't able to talk!

**SAY:** Let's find out what happened next. Let me choose someone to get gift number three for us.

**DO:** Send a recruit to get the gift.

**SAY:** Check it out...a baby? Wow! We'd better read about this.

**DO:** Read Luke 1:23-25.

**SAY:** Elizabeth finally got pregnant. She was going to have a baby! What a great unexpected surprise. Let's find out more about the surprises! \_\_\_\_\_ (name of recruit), go and get gift number four.

**DO:** Send them off.





**SAY:** You know the drill. Open it up. Another angel? What could that be about? Let's keep reading Luke.

**DO:** Read Luke 1:26 – 38.

**SAY:** Amazing! What a surprise Mary must have had when the angel came and told her she would have a baby even though she wasn't even married, that the baby's father would be the Holy Spirit, and the baby would be Jesus, the Saviour of the world. Now that must have been totally unexpected! How incredible. This is so exciting! Let's find out more.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (name of recruit) **go and get me gift number five.**

**DO:** Have them go and get the gift and open it.

**SAY:** What is it? ...Another baby! Let's read Luke 1:39-45.

**DO:** Read the text.

**SAY:** Isn't that awesome? Two women who shouldn't have been able to have babies, one because she was quite old and another because she wasn't married, were pregnant. And not only that, when they met up with each other Elizabeth's baby leaped in her. What a great surprise! Mary and Elizabeth were so filled with joy that John and particularly Jesus were coming!

**SAY:** God's ways really are not our ways and His thoughts really are not ours! Let's go and check in with the team to find out how their surprises are working out.



### Mission Uplink 3



YouTube: Play "The Christmas Promise (S2) Episode 2 (3/4)". Pause the video when the FIELD MISSION CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the Field Mission Project.

PPT: Click to advance to next slide. Pause video when FIELD MISSION CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the Field Mission Project.



### Field Mission Project



### Supplies Needed

- A variety of small ornaments that can be purchased at a Dollar store and have space to write on or paper cut outs of a variety of Christmas shapes (i.e. trees, candy canes, ornament balls) with a ribbon attached for hanging
- Sharpies or permanent markers for writing on ornaments
- Two sheets of paper for brainstorming lists
- Marker



## Mission Project

**SAY:** Sharing the unexpected. Now that sounds like fun! Let's have a drum roll for Mission # 3... (read mission card from satellite uplink) "Choose an unexpected way to share the real meaning of Christmas with the people in your neighbourhood."

**SAY:** Christmas is a time to think of others and to especially share the message of Christ. What are some unexpected ways that you can think of to share the message of Jesus this week?

**DO:** Let the recruits brainstorm some ideas as you record them. (Making gifts for them, creating ornaments, shovelling a driveway and then saying "Merry Christmas", sharing a candy cane with someone and telling them that Jesus loves them, singing carols outside neighbour's homes)

**SAY:** What a great list of ideas you've come up with. Please be sure to choose one or two of those ideas to use this week. To make sure that we all have an idea before we leave today, we're going to take some time to create messages for ornaments that we can give away. What are some messages that we could write that would encourage and tell others about Jesus? Let's write down some ideas.

**DO:** Write down ideas that could be written on the ornaments (God loves you, you are the reason Jesus came, Love, Jesus, Hope, etc.)

**SAY:** Choose two or three ornaments, choose a message for them and then decorate them to give away to someone this week.

**DO:** Help the recruits write carefully on their ornaments.



### Prayer Huddle



**YouTube:** Play "The Christmas Promise (S2) Episode 2 (4/4)". Pause the video when the PRAYER HUDDLE CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the prayer huddle.

**PPT:** Click to advance to next slide. Pause video when PRAYER HUDDLE CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the prayer huddle.



### Supplies Needed

- Ornaments from Field Mission Project
- Music and music player

### Directions

**SAY:** Now that you have created your ornaments, I want you to think about who you might give them to. It is easy to give them to family or close friends but perhaps you need to focus on those that you might not normally share them with. Perhaps someone like a teacher, the librarian, the crossing guard, your neighbour, someone at school who you may not know well and so on. We are going to take a few moments to be still and pray, asking that God will show you who you should give your ornaments to. Who will you share the message of Christmas with?



**DO:** Play some quiet music (preferably Christmas music) and allow the recruits to pray about who they should give their ornaments to.

**SAY:** Let's pray together.

**DO:** Pray with the recruits asking that God will give them the chance to share the love of Jesus with someone who may not expect it.

**SAY:** We sure had many surprises today! Elizabeth and Mary expecting babies! Jesus coming and then, wow, we find out that we are the reason that He came. He loves us! Have a great week surprising the people in your life with some of our brainstorming ideas and with your ornaments. Remember Jesus loves you!

### **NOTES:**

