



## Windows on Christmas The Blindside 4<sup>th</sup> December 2016



### Overview

Sunday was the start of a new series entitled, 'Windows on Christmas', where each Sunday a popular movie is featured that has an application to Christmas. This week it was the movie "Blindsight". However, given the mammoth amount of effort our church put into pulling off the amazing feat called "Christmas in Rocket Park", only to have the weather "rain on our parade", and have severely adverse effect on the event, Pastor Steve has rightly chosen to also address the question that many, if not most of our church community have asked: "Why would God allow such awful weather when a church had worked so hard on an outreach event?" in his sermon.

So we have two mini SBS's here. You can do both, or either.

### Part 1: CIRP Review



### Getting to Know You

How many of you were involved in the planning or preparations for "CIRP?"

Who of you were there for CIRP?

How did you feel when the rain squalls swept through, and the temperature dropped?



### Digging Deeper

Take a moment to reflect on the responses Ps Steve has presented to the question below, and then choose 3 that you think most accurately reflect your own thoughts, and share with the group why you think this...

**Why would God allow such awful weather when a church had worked so hard on an outreach event?**



- God often doesn't 'move' in the way we expect (John 3:8)
- Our end goals aren't always the same as God's (Isaiah 55:9)
- Maybe He is testing our character (Job 23:10; James 1:3)
- Maybe this is crucial preparation for something down the track (Gen 50:20)
- Sometimes we can get things out of perspective (Micah 6:8)
- The rain falls on the good and the bad alike (Matt 5:45)
- If God coped with the discomfort of being born in a feeding trough, let's not complain to Him for not granting more comfortable weather - especially when this is the exact story we were telling! (Luke 2:7)

Are there any other reasons or responses that you have thought of that are not covered here or have been mentioned?

## Part 2: Windows on Christmas - The Blindside



### Getting to Know You

Who of you have seen the movie “Blindsight”?  
Have you thought how there is a message in the movie that has an application to Christmas?  
Can you think of other well-known movies that have a message related to Christmas?



### Digging Deeper

Read and reflect on the following verses we considered in Sunday’s sermon.

John 1

In the beginning the Word already existed.

The Word was with God,  
and the Word was God.

2 He existed in the beginning with God.

3 God created everything through him,  
and nothing was created except through him.

4 The Word gave life to everything that was created,  
and his life brought light to everyone.

5 The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness can never extinguish it.

6 God sent a man, John the Baptist, 7 to tell about the light so that everyone might believe because of his testimony. 8 John himself was not the light; he was simply a witness to tell about the light. 9 The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

10 He came into the very world he created, but the world didn’t recognize him. 11 He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. 12 But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. 13 They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.

14 So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father’s one and only Son.

- Eugene Peterson in his paraphrase translation “The Message” translates the first part of verse 14 this way: “The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighbourhood...” It is a thought-provoking and modern way to convey the meaning of incarnation. Do you like or dislike the phrase, and do you find it helpful to understand this concept of incarnation?
- What verse or verses from John 1 speak most to you when you consider them in the context of the Christmas story? Why?
- In what ways do you connect the movie “Blindsight” and the story of Prince William sleeping on the street on Christmas Eve, with the message of Christmas?

- What does it mean to be “incarnational”? Why is this an important concept?



### **Taking it home**

Pastor Steve left us with a very thought provoking question to consider at the end of the sermon last Sunday...

- Can you live out the story of Christmas this year by really leaving your own world and entering in to the world of another?
- What might your response to this question look like this Christmas season?
- In what ways do you think Christmas in Rocket Park succeeded in being “incarnational”? Does the weather affect this answer? (How does being incarnational relate to being successful?)



### **Prayer**

- Pray for the people who came to Christmas in Rocket Park, that the message that God wanted them to hear and see would continue to speak to them and that they would respond to this message of His love.
- Pray that God would continue his transforming work in our hearts and we would find ways to be incarnational to those around us and in our community.