



Someone to Believe In

Session 4 Nothing is Impossible

Worship songs: Hark the herald
See amid the winters snow

Film clip 1:36:10 to 1:45:00

Bible passage

Luke 10: 1-7; 17-20

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. He told them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.

'When you enter a house, first say, "Peace to this house." If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you. Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house.

The seventy-two returned with joy and said, 'Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.'

He replied, 'I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.'

In the trial of Santa Claus, Susan brings the judge a Christmas card to the judge on the bench as he begins to deliver his verdict. Inside it a \$1 bill has the words "In God we trust" circled in red. Having already admitted that he wanted to dismiss the case, the judge grasps the argument that Mr Bedford has been making and draws the link between believing in Santa Claus and belief in the US Government, mandated by the people of the USA, to guarantee the value of the currency.

Once the trial is over, Kris Kringle is able to go about his duties and prepare for delivering gifts. But he has some rather special tasks to achieve. Such tasks require a willingness to follow the directions of one in whom they trust. For Mr Bedford such trustfulness is simpler to put into practice having seen that trust being honoured. For Mrs Walker this is much harder because of her sense of betrayal in previous relationship. Her levels of trust are much harder to raise, and she comes to the church suspicious and uncertain, and yet intrigued.

It seems a whole scenario had been arranged to ensure that Susan's wish could happen. We need to allow the magic of Hollywood to work as there are several inconsistencies of logic and legal procedure that might get in the way. But of course Santa Claus represents the power for good in a consumerist world so that kindness and generosity prevail.

Discussion questions

1. Icebreaker – what is the best present that you have ever received for Christmas and why?
2. Susan had asked Santa Claus for a very specific gift for Christmas to show that he was real. Has God answered a very specific prayer for you?
3. How does God show himself to you or others? Can you help to reveal God's love and power to others
4. What transformations come to those who allow their faith and trust in Jesus to have absolute priority?
5. What might it seem like to give every aspect of your life to God?

Prayer

Gracious God, we thank you for the reminder of the birth of your Son Jesus. Help us to recognise the power in his life, death and resurrection and accept his offer of eternal life. Transform us by the power of your spirit at work in our lives that we might live more fully for your Son each day.

Amen.

Thanks:

Carol for music

Jane, Judith, Deborah, Yvonne and Jean for refreshments

Deborah for AV skills

Lucy, Jane, Peter, Deborah, John and Carol for facilitating small groups

And everyone for participating and contributing

Worship Song: Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?

Blessing and departure