# AN EXTRA ORDINARY CHRISTMAS - SHORT TALK OUTLINE

## Introduction

Well, what an extra ordinary day! We’ve met a shepherd, an angel and a sheep! Now that doesn’t happen every day, does it?

Maybe when you woke up this morning you were super excited thinking ‘This day is going to be extraordinary’, or maybe you woke up and thought ‘It’s *just* another day!’

Christmas is a reminder about the most extraordinary event that ever happened in the whole of history – the birth of Jesus! So when we celebrate Christmas the extra-ordinary can come alive again for us, and the joy of the shepherds, the wonder of the angels and awe of the sheep become ours once again. The only problem is that that joy may be fleeting and only lasts for one day. But we have something very extraordinary to share with you today. It doesn’t have to be just one extra ordinary Christmas Day – it can be about living extraordinary days for the rest of lives. Let’s look at how we can do that. It is as simple as A B C.

### **A - ACCEPT that Jesus is the Saviour of the world.**

Jesus was no ordinary baby. Jesus himself was extraordinary and his earthly parents were too. A very long time ago Mary, the mother of Jesus, was visited by an angel who had extraordinary news to share with her.

Luke 1:28,30-32 records the angel saying: ‘Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you …. Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be call the Son of the Most High.’

Mary must have been very special to have been chosen to be the mother of Jesus. And we can tell that is true, because she did a very beautiful and amazing thing. She ACCEPTED that Jesus was going to be the Saviour of the world and that she had been given a very extraordinary role in life. Mary had to ensure that Jesus had a mother who would love and care for him as he grew up. Mary’s life changed from ordinary into extraordinary in the blink of an eye.

### **B - BELIEVE that you BELONG**

Jesus wasn’t born only for those who lived in Bethlehem at the time of his birth. Jesus was born for everyone. His birth helps us to understand the ‘belonging’ nature of God. We belong to him and he belongs to us. Belongingness is a human emotion, it is a need to be accepted as part of a group of people, and Jesus calls us to belong to the family of God. That means that you are not ordinary, but extraordinary because you have a place in the Kingdom of God. When we belong to a group of people rather than trying to do life on our own, we turn from saying ‘I’ to being ‘us’. We hear this group belonging to God talking about the birth of Jesus in Isaiah 9:6:

‘For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.’

So, the extraordinary news of Christmas is that you belong to the family of God and you are understood by the Wonderful Counsellor, you are strong in our Mighty God. You are unconditionally loved by the Everlasting Father and you are cared for by the Prince of Prince. Jesus belongs to you, and if you believe in him you will belong to him.

### **C - CONFESS that Jesus is LORD**

‘Confess’ is a strange word for many, as it often makes us think about confessing our sins, confessing that we’ve messed up or even confessing to someone we care for that we have not acted as we should. Well, that kind of confessing can be good for the soul and necessary to living a good life, but today we want to think about confessing that Jesus is Lord. In that context it means that we simply say out loud that we *accept* that Jesus is the Saviour of the world, that we *believe* that we belong to God’s family, and then we *confess* that Jesus is Lord – that Jesus is our Mighty God, Jesus is our Everlasting Father and Jesus is our Prince of Peace. We speak it out, whether loudly for all to hear or whispered in the depths of our hearts for Jesus to hear.

Romans 10:9 (*ESV*) says: ‘If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord … you will be saved.’

You see, accepting, believing and confessing is the best way to live an extraordinary life with Jesus Christ. And if you don’t believe it, remember the testimony of Simon the shepherd, Angelica the angel and Bartimaeus the sheep. Jesus turns the ordinary into extraordinary.

## Conclusion

Christmas isn’t just about celebrating one day. Christmas is about turning our everyday, ordinary lives into something special and quite extraordinary. And to do that we simply have to follow some great advice written by the apostle Paul and found in Romans 12:1-2 (*The Message* Version).

‘So here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life – your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life – and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him.’

Happy Christmas, everyone – go be extraordinary for Jesus!