

1. **Launcher: What is the biggest loss you’ve ever suffered? (Answer this question with what you originally thought at the beginning of the sermon)**

2. **Worship God – John 1:1-5**

Worship the LORD, the Omnipresent God, for creating us for relationship with Himself. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, that He is gracious to take sinners like us to be with Him in His own family!

3. **Sermon Reflection: “Paradise Lost”**

The Holiest Gift

- How is God’s presence an incomparable gift?
- What is the value of being connected? What is the value of something that is present with no connection?
- What does God’s presence mean to you? Is the connection important? What is the connection, how would you describe it?

The Worst Move Ever

- How have we squandered love, and given birth to shame and destruction?
- What are the two main ways we have sinned against our Maker? Describe the way we are treasonous and blasphemous to Him just in our daily activities.
- Why was it actually a mercy for God to kick Adam and Eve out of the garden immediately after they ate the fruit?

A Violent Recovery

- How has the Lord taken action to our alienation?
- What makes this action shockingly violent?
- What are we rejoicing over in Christmas?
 - Let’s look upward and pray together, adoring God for the beauty of His radical pursuit of us in the story of Christ coming to Earth. (Use prayer points)

4. **Kingdom Centered Prayer: You Can Pray with Us**

1. Worship the LORD, the Omnipresent God, for creating us for relationship with Himself. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, that He is gracious to take sinners like us to be with Him in His own family!
 2. How have you lived alienated from your Maker and sensible of losing His Presence? Confess your selfish living to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you and to restore you by His mercy.
 3. Give thanks to Jesus for His work to redeem us. Thank Him that while we were rebellious, He let go of what was rightfully His and took what He did not deserve (by His death) to guarantee us what we could never earn.
 4. Who do you know that is closest to you that does not know Jesus? Pray for them, asking the Lord to help you reach them for Him. Ask Him to give you words and courage, and to give them a soft, humble heart.
 5. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you a greater and greater sense of security in Jesus’ promises, to strengthen you while you live in exile on this earth. Pray for His fruit of faithfulness as you trust the gift of His Presence to sustain you.
5. **Mission: We are on mission as Christians to treasure God’s presence above all else. We enter our city with rejoicing and gladness, for we have a hope that is imperishable and everlasting because of the assurances of Christmas.**