

CHURCH SCHOOL LESSON
DECEMBER 20,, 2020
A GIFT FOR EVERYONE

Boy! It's nearly Christmas! Are you ready? This week our lesson is about the message of Jesus, first brought to the shepherds, it is for everyone. You can help pass the message to others. What are some of the messages people say about the Christmas season?

Suppose you just moved to the city from another country and you want to see how the local people celebrate Christmas. You walk outside and you see a group of skyscrapers, many stories tall with path through the snow leading into a park, all covered in snow. On the path is a man carrying a box with presents. Behind him are two more men also carrying boxes with presents. In the park off the path is a group of young people singing Christmas carols with the another man directing them

In the picture, I just described, who is communicating something important about the reason we celebrate Christmas?

What are some things people do that steals the joy from the holidays?

Suppose you were talking to someone who was hearing about Christmas for the first time. What would you say?

How could you use the various Christmas customs to show the importance of Jesus' birth?

As you know, there are a lot of messages about Christmas. Some people are right on target with their ideas about Christmas, while some really miss the mark. This week we are going to look at the story of Jesus' birth, but we are going to go beyond just the facts of the story and see why it is so important that everyone hears about its true meaning.

I know that you all know about the angels and the shepherds, Mary and Joseph, and the wise men and how they all fit in the Christmas story. Many of you have played these characters in Christmas skits in years past.

We have been learning about Paul and this week we find out how he fits into this story. Paul continued to travel to new cities and preach. While he was in Antioch he reminded the people that God had long ago promised to Israel the coming of the Savior. Paul used the Scriptures to prove that Jesus was that promised Savior.

Read Acts 13:22-23.

Whose family did Paul say the Savior would be born in?

Paul went on to tell the people that this message of salvation had been sent to both the Jews and the Gentiles – to everyone.

Read Luke 2:4-12 and 16-18.

What did the shepherds do after they saw Jesus?

Paul taught that the message of Jesus was for everyone. Paul wrote letters to teach Christians everywhere about Christ.

Read Romans 8:3-4.

Why did Paul say the Savior needed to come?

Why did Paul describe Jesus as a sin offering?

Under Jewish law, sin was forgiven when perfect animals were sacrificed. When Jesus died for the sins of the world, His death became the complete and perfect sacrifice for sin.

Read Ephesians 2:8.

What does it take to be saved by Jesus?

How is this message for everyone?

The message of Jesus isn't just for a few people. The shepherds told everyone they met about Jesus. Paul told everyone about Jesus. And we can tell others the Good News we have.

Why is it important that all people hear the message of Jesus?

Here are the lyrics to a couple of popular Christmas songs. I want you to rewrite them so they convey the true meaning of Christmas.

Jingle bell, jingle bells
Jingle all the way.
Oh, what fun it is to ride
In a one horse open sleigh.

Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer
Has a very shiny nose
And if you ever saw it
You would even say it glows.
All of the other reindeer
Used to laugh and call him names
They never let poor Rudolph
Join in any reindeer games.
Then one foggy Christmas Eve
Santa came to say
"Rudolph with your nose so bright
Won't you guide my sleigh tonight?
Then how the reindeer loved him
As they shouted out with glee.
Rudolph , the Red Nose Reindeer
You'll go down in history.

I will give you a little help. Jingle Bells might be changed to Christ is Born. Now you work on the rest.

Or you could change Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer to Riding on a small donkey, Mary rode to Bethlehem.

See what you can come up with. Don't worry, your lyrics don't need to rhyme. And I promise I won't make you sing them for us.

How do songs about Jesus' birth tell a message to people who just see Christmas as a gift-giving holiday?

So, what is the true meaning of Christmas?

And who is this message for?

Since the message of Jesus is for everyone, you might want to plan to pass the message on to someone you know. God's marvelous gift of salvation is the ultimate gift. Not only has He given it freely to us, but we can pass the message on to people we know!

Look up the verses below so that you can tell your friends about the added BONUS GIFTS that come with accepting God's gift of salvation.

Romans 6:23	
Romans 5:1	
2 Thessalonians 2:16	
Romans 15:13	
Ephesians 3:12	

Don't just keep it for yourself! It's the perfect gift for everyone!

Let's close with a prayer. Thank you God for the gift of Jesus and the message of salvation that he gave to everyone. Help us to share the message of Christmas with people we meet. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.