

WHO IS THIS BABY IN THE MANGER?

Thanksgiving is fading into the past and Christmas is approaching with the speed of a Concord jet. Our lists grow as we think of tasks that have to be completed by the big day. Unwanted emotions creep in as we think of Christmases past. A sneeze or a cough reminds us that we might be coming down with a cold because we've been exposed and haven't gotten enough rest. OK, let's slow down for a minute! Imagine that someone has asked you to tell them the Christmas story and *that is the only thing you really have to do*. This is your opportunity to tell someone about Jesus! You want to make Him real to them. It's not enough that they see Him just as a sweet little baby born in a manger. You want them to know Him as Savior and King! You want them to know why He had to come down to our world. You want them to live their lives differently because they know Him!

No pressure, right?

Let's pray for guidance and wisdom before we start our study.

Dear Lord,

Please open the hearts of all who don't know You yet. We pray that You would use this season to present opportunities to tell Your story. We pray that You would help us keep Your Word in our hearts so that we can share with confidence. Please help us not to get so caught up in the busyness of the "holidays" that we miss the reason we celebrate! Help us to share our hope with those who have no hope. Help us to share our bounty with those who don't have enough. Help us to love the unlovable with Your bountiful love! Oh Lord, where do we begin the story? In the Garden of Eden where humankind first sinned against You? Or in Isaiah where Your birth was prophesied to a hurting nation? Should we start in the Gospels of Matthew or Luke where Mary is told that she will be the virgin mother of the Promised One? Help us Lord to know where to begin!

In Your Name we pray!

Amen

1. It is important as we study who Jesus is that we understand the Godhead. Look up the word "Trinity" in at least one dictionary and record the meaning. Also read Matthew 3:16-17 and Galatians 4:4-6. What/Who is the Trinity?

2. What is Jesus' role in the Trinity?

3. Read the following Scriptures and record what they tell us about Jesus.
 - a. John 10:30

 - b. John 8:58

 - c. 2 Peter 1:16-18

4. Why would God come down as a helpless baby to grow up as a man in a sinful, fallen world? John 3:16-17

5. What makes Jesus the only one who is qualified to save us from our sin? John 14:6 and Acts 4:12

6. Now read Isaiah 9:1-7. This is the prophecy about our Savior and Redeemer. It is estimated that this was written approximately 700 years before the birth of Christ. What was the purpose of this prophecy?

7. Why does humankind need a Savior? Romans 3:23 and Ephesians 2:1-3

Read Luke 2:1-20

8. What impact did the birth of Jesus have on the shepherds?

9. Why do you think the angels came to the shepherds and not a prominent person such as the king?

10. Who does Jesus say He is? John 11:25-27

11. Jesus lived His life with an unwavering determination in His purpose and His Mission. Even when He knew His life on this earth was almost over He continued teaching and even comforting His disciples. What do you find amazing in the following verses about Jesus and His mission to our world? Mark 10:32-34, 45 and John 17:1-5

12. Keeping in mind Acts 1:8, what is our mission?

Jesus lived on this earth for 33 years loving, teaching, performing miracles and preparing for His death and resurrection. Let's not leave Jesus in the manger this Christmas! We have to tell our hurting and confused world about the hope we have in Him. He is alive and His Spirit lives in all who call Him Savior!

13. How will you tell others about the hope you have in Him? Write out the message you want to share with the world about Jesus in the remaining space and on the back of this lesson. This is your Christmas story!