

Jesus is . . .

Knowing Him this Christmas



Jesus is . . . Jesus

Scriptures:

Luke 2:11, 21-38
Matthew 1:21
Philippians 2:8-9
John 1:10-13
Titus 2:11

Lesson Goals:

Know Jesus as Jesus.
Know that we are sinners.
Know that Jesus came to die - to save us from our sins.

Memory Verse:

He will save his people from their sins.
Matthew 1:21 (CEV)

God. Messiah. Immanuel.

What do these names have in common? (They are all names for Jesus.) Do you remember what they mean? Jesus being God means that He has been around forever and that He created the world. Messiah means “God’s Special One” and reminds us that He was promised long ago. And Immanuel means “God is with us.” Have you wondered yet what the name Jesus means? Why name this baby Jesus? Maybe you remember something from the angel’s announcement to Joseph that we studied a couple of weeks ago.

Read Matthew 1:20-21

So, why was this baby to be given the name Jesus? (Because He would save His people from their sins.) The name Jesus means that God saves or that He is salvation. And when the angel announced Jesus’ birth to the shepherds, the news was this: “Today, in King David’s town a Savior has been born to you.” But what does all of this really mean? Who are His people? What are sins and why do we need to be saved from them? Let’s look at what happened several days after Jesus was born.

Read Luke 2:21-23

Joseph, Mary, and the baby made a trip to Jerusalem eight days after the baby was born. They did this to obey God. They must dedicate their baby to God this way. It was then that Joseph and Mary named their son. They named Him Jesus, just like the angel had told them.

There was a man there in Jerusalem who had received a special promise from God. His name was Simeon and he was a good man, a godly man. Simeon, like many others, was waiting for God’s promised Messiah. Simeon was different, though. God had promised Simeon that he wouldn’t die before God completed His promise. Simeon would see God’s Special One, the Messiah, before he died. Because of this, God’s Spirit led Simeon to the temple courtyard.

As Joseph and Mary entered the temple to do what God required of them, Simeon took Jesus in his arms. Simeon gave praise to God. He said, "Lord, you are the King over everything. Now I can die in peace because you have done what you promised." Isn't it amazing that, out of all of the people that must have been at the temple, Simeon knew Jesus was the One? God's Spirit had shown him. Simeon continued praising God. He said, "My eyes have seen your salvation. This salvation is for the people of Israel, but light will also be given to those who aren't Jews."

Joseph and Mary were amazed at what Simeon said about Jesus. Then a prophet named Anna walked up to Jesus' family. She was always in the temple and, like Simeon, she understood the things of God. Anna talked about Jesus to everyone who was waiting for God to set them free.

Don't you think it is amazing that two people who had never seen Jesus before just happened to know that He was the One God had promised, the One who would set His people free? Of course, they didn't "just know." God's Spirit told them.

Do you remember the questions we had about God's salvation at the beginning of our story? **Who** is God's salvation? Simeon said of Jesus that his eyes had seen God's salvation. Jesus would be the way God would offer salvation. Then, who is God's salvation for? Well, Simeon also said something about that, too. Salvation is for God's people, but it's also for those who aren't the people of Israel. That means that God's salvation is for everyone! There is no one so good that he doesn't need God's salvation and there is no one so bad that God won't offer him/her salvation.

But what in the world do we need to be saved from? S-I-N, sin. What is it? Sin is missing the mark of obedience to God. Sin is not doing what we should. Sin is also doing what we shouldn't. And God tells us that **everyone** has sinned. And sin keeps us away from God. God loves us so much that He sent His One and Only Son, Jesus, to die for the punishment of my sin and your sin. Jesus was born so that He could die for us.

Will you accept the gift of God's salvation today?

Next Week
Jesus is . . . Lord
Matthew 2:1-11

Preschool

Sing “Jesus Loves Me”

Read Matthew 1:20-21

Teach When the angel came to tell Joseph that Mary was having a baby, the angel told Joseph what to name him. This baby would be named Jesus.

So, when Jesus was only eight days old, Joseph, Mary, and the baby made a trip to Jerusalem. They did this to obey God. This is when they named their son. They named Him Jesus, just like the angel had told them.

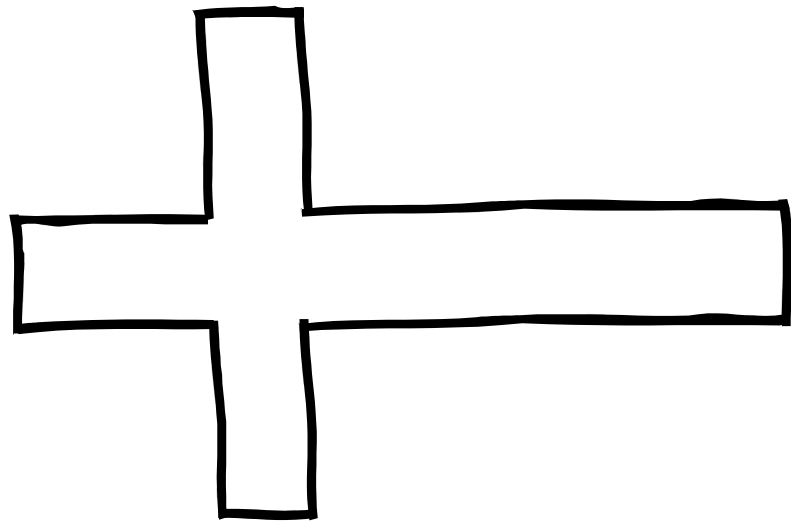
There was a man there in Jerusalem who had received a special promise from God. His name was Simeon. He was a good man. He was a godly man. Simeon was like many other people because he was waiting for God to send His Son. Simeon was different from many other people, though. God would keep His promise to Simeon before Simeon died. That is why God’s Spirit led Simeon to the temple courtyard when Joseph and Mary arrived with Jesus.

When Joseph and Mary went into the temple, Simeon took baby Jesus in his arms. Simeon told God, “Lord, you are the King over everything. Now I can die in peace because you have done what you promised.” Simeon continued praising God. He said, “My eyes have seen your salvation. This salvation is for everyone.”

Pray Thank you, God, for sending Jesus.

A C T I V I T E S

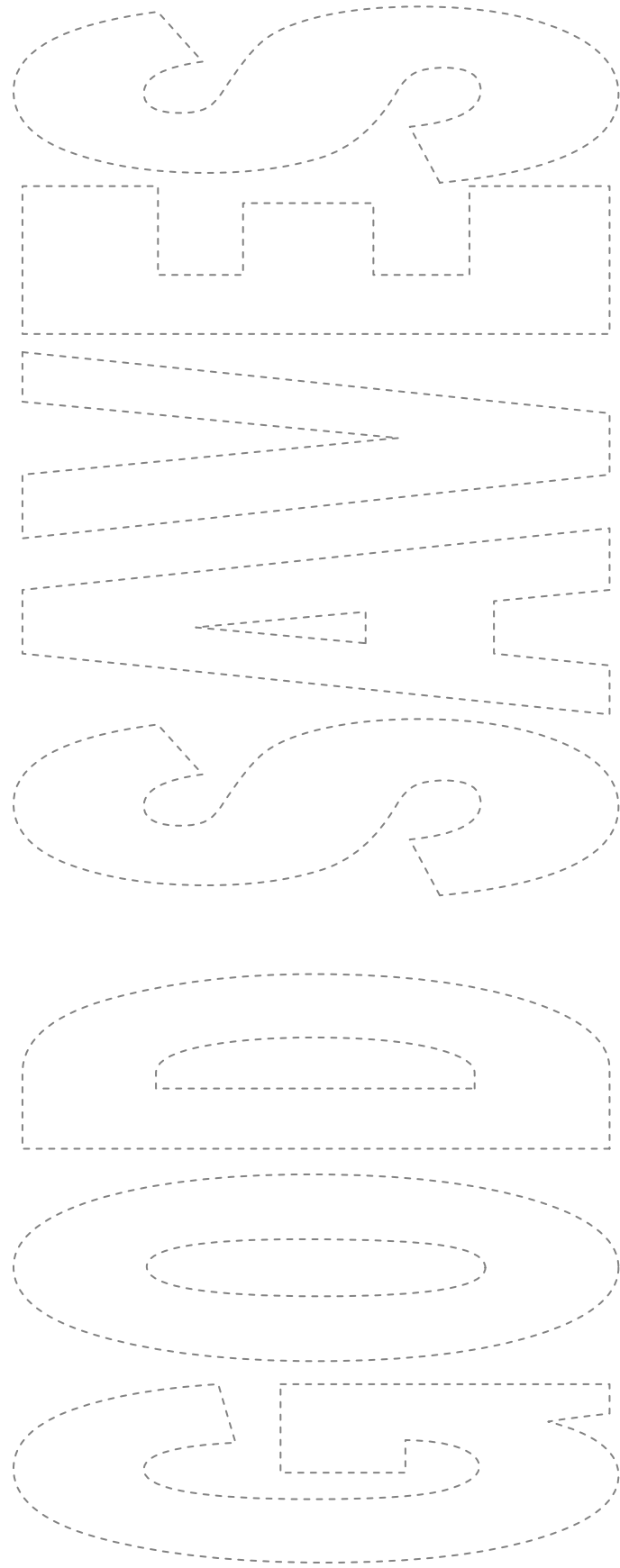
- Memory Verse Activity - Make Memory Verse Cross ornaments to hang on the tree in your room, to send home with your students, or both. Use craft sticks or construction paper. Print the verse on the crossbar.
- Make Jesus Pennants. Print and decorate the name of Jesus printed on long triangles that resemble old sports pennants.
- Make cards. On the front, print "Who was Jesus sent for?" or "Who can Jesus save?" On the inside of the card affix a small square of aluminum foil, being sure not to crease it. When the card is read and opened, each child will see his own reflection.
- Bring a small gift to class today. Wrap it. Ask, "Who would like a gift?" Offer it to the first student who responds. Talk about the fact that if the gift is never accepted, it is not your own. Remind your students that God has given us a gift that is indescribable (2 Corinthians 9:15). For the gift of God's Son to be "ours," for Him to change our lives, we have to choose to accept it. No one can do it for us.
- Write an acrostic poem with the letters of Jesus' name.
- Sing "O Holy Night," "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen," "Happy Birthday, Jesus," "Jesus, Name Above All Names."



He will save his people
from their sins.

Matthew 1:21

Trace the letters to find out what "Jesus" means.



Jesus is Jesus

Word Search

J O S U E S J E R O V E
E E J O S E P H O H T J
S A R Y S M N O E M I S
M A R U P N I A M A R Y
E L S O S Y R A H R I J
N S A L V A T I O N P O
Y L U N A R L T L H S S
E L M H N M Y E I P Y R
S D E K C A L M M J L O
A K P R G E V P I H O L
M Y D L O D S L H X H S
I N E X S F I E W U O H

MARY

SIMEON

JESUS

SALVATION

JOSEPH

JERUSALEM

ANNA

TEMPLE

HOLY SPIRIT

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Word Search



MARY

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