

Jesus is . . .

Knowing Him this Christmas



Jesus is . . . God

Scriptures:

Luke 1:26-38, 46-55
John 1:1-3, 18
Hebrews 1:1-3a
Philippians 2:5-10

Lesson Goals:

Know Jesus as God.
Know Jesus was with God
from the beginning.

Memory Verse:

Christ was truly God.
Philippians 2:6a (CEV)

What does your name mean? Did you know that it meant something? The names Violet and Rose mean just what they sound like, flowers. Some names mean happy things like John (God is gracious) or Sarah (princess). Other names have sadder meanings like Mary (sea of bitterness) and Dolores (full of sorrow).

Did you know that many years ago children were given names because of their meanings? In some places in the world, that custom continues today. So, when those children meet someone on the street who asks them what their name means they know what to tell them.

The Bible talks about name meanings. You can learn a lot about Bible characters by their names. Isaac means “laughter” because his 90 year old mother laughed when told she would have a baby. Moses means “drawn out of the water” which he was by Pharaoh's daughter.

But what does all of this have to do with Christmas? Have you ever read through the Christmas story, come across more than one name for Jesus, and wondered what it really meant? So you see, name meanings have a lot to do with Christmas, because we can learn new things about Jesus by the names He was given.

Read Philippians 2:5-8a

Did you know that Jesus was God? That's what Philippians 2:6 says, “Christ was truly God.” Maybe you are asking, “How can that be? How can Jesus be God?” The Bible explains that not only was Jesus with God from the very beginning, He was God. We don't worship three gods. There is one true God - God who is the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Spirit (the Holy Spirit). They are three in one and Jesus shows us what God is like. Jesus has been with God since the very beginning. In fact, John 1 says that Jesus and God created the world together! Hebrews 1 says that God made everything through Him and that Jesus is an exact likeness of God. To explain it a little better, what do you see when you look in the mirror? You see yourself, right? You don't see someone else. And when we look at Jesus through

Scripture, we see God.

God is always trying to reach out to us and, one day long ago, Jesus decided to leave the wonders of heaven to live with us. For that wonderful event, God made a special announcement.

Read Luke 1:26-28

God sent an angel from heaven for His special announcement. The angel was sent to a young girl from a very normal sort of family. Her name was Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph and she was keeping herself pure.

Mary was a little frightened and upset by this visitor from heaven. But the angel told Mary not to be afraid. God had chosen her to carry and raise Jesus. Because Mary was keeping herself pure, she wasn't sure how all of this could happen. Gabriel explained, "God's Holy Spirit will come to you and you will give birth to God's Son."

Jesus, who had stepped out of His home in heaven, had somehow become a living, growing baby inside of Mary.

An angel was sent to Joseph, as well. Joseph found out that Mary was pregnant and he knew the baby wasn't his. As Joseph was deciding what to do, the angel told him, "Don't be afraid to marry Mary. The baby inside of her was put there by the Holy Spirit. She is going to have God's Son." Joseph did what the angel told him to and married Mary.

But what would this baby be like? This baby was God. He had all of God's characteristics and in a song of thanksgiving, Mary explained what God is like. God notices those who seem unimportant and He does great things for them. He shows mercy to those who respect Him and fills the hungry. He is kind and He keeps His promises.

Do you know Jesus as God? Have you let Him have control of your life? He is able and willing to do great things for you, too. Will you show Him the respect He deserves this Christmas and beyond?

Next Week
Jesus is . . . Messiah
Matthew 1:1-17

Preschool

Sing “God is So Good”

Read Luke 1:26-28

Teach God sent an angel from heaven with a special announcement. The angel was sent to a young girl from a very normal sort of family. Her name was Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph.

Mary was a little frightened and upset by this visitor from heaven. But the angel told Mary not to be afraid. God had chosen her to carry and raise His Son, Jesus. Gabriel explained, “God’s Holy Spirit will come to you and you will give birth to God’s Son. Nothing is impossible with God.”

An angel was sent to Joseph, too. But this angel came in a dream. Joseph had found out that Mary was pregnant and he knew the baby wasn’t his. As Joseph was deciding what to do, the angel told him, “Don’t be afraid to marry Mary. The baby inside of her was put there by the Holy Spirit. She is going to have God’s Son.” Joseph woke up from his dream and did what the angel told him to do. He married Mary and cared for her.

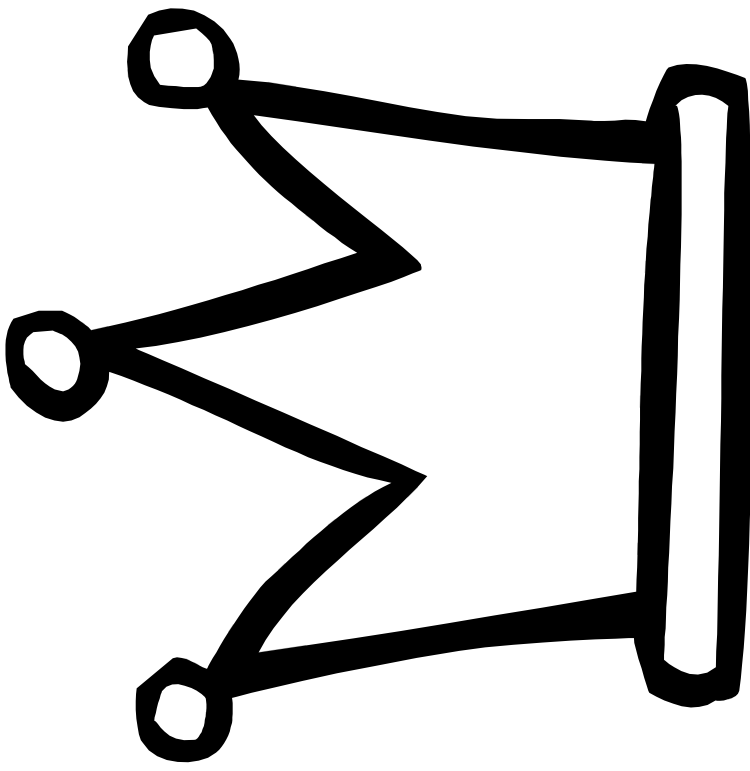
But what would this baby be like? This baby was God’s Son, but this baby was also God. He would be like God in every way. Mary sang a song of thanksgiving to God for choosing her to be the mother of His Son. In her song, Mary explained what God is like. Her song also shows us what Jesus would be like. Mary sang, “God notices those who seem unimportant and He does great things for them. He fills the hungry. He is kind and He keeps His promises.”

What a wonderful boy this will be! God is so good!

Pray Thank you, God, for being kind and for doing great things for people who seem unimportant.

Activities

- Memory Verse Activity - Make paper angel garlands that consist of at least five angels. Write a word from the verse, and the reference, on separate angels.
- Stick to coloring and activity pages that depict the angel's announcement to Mary and Joseph and their early relationship.
- Make paper crowns. Talk about Jesus being in heaven with God before He came as a baby in the manger.
- Make angel tree toppers. Wrap a piece of cardstock or construction paper into the shape of a cone. Use a white Styrofoam ball for the head and yarn for the hair. Encourage your students to be creative.
- Decorate your door or a wall in your meeting room. Encourage your students to be creative and artistic. Depict today's story and leave room for the following stories, if desired.
- Discover the meaning of your student's names. Use your local library or online resources for help.
- Following the information from Philippians 2:5-8, prompt your students to think about and even reenact Jesus leaving heaven to be born in a human body. Provide a kingly robe, crown, and throne to depict heaven.
- Dig Deeper: "God Is . . ." Make a list of the things God is. Look back to stories you have studied and add to the list. Talk about the fact that Jesus is God. If God is kind, then Jesus is kind, etc.



Christ was truly God.

Philippians 2:6

Pick the correct mathematical sign and draw it in the equation.

JESUS + GOD

=

+

-

Jesus is God

Word Search

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

MARY

ANGEL

JESUS

GOD

JOSEPH

GABRIEL

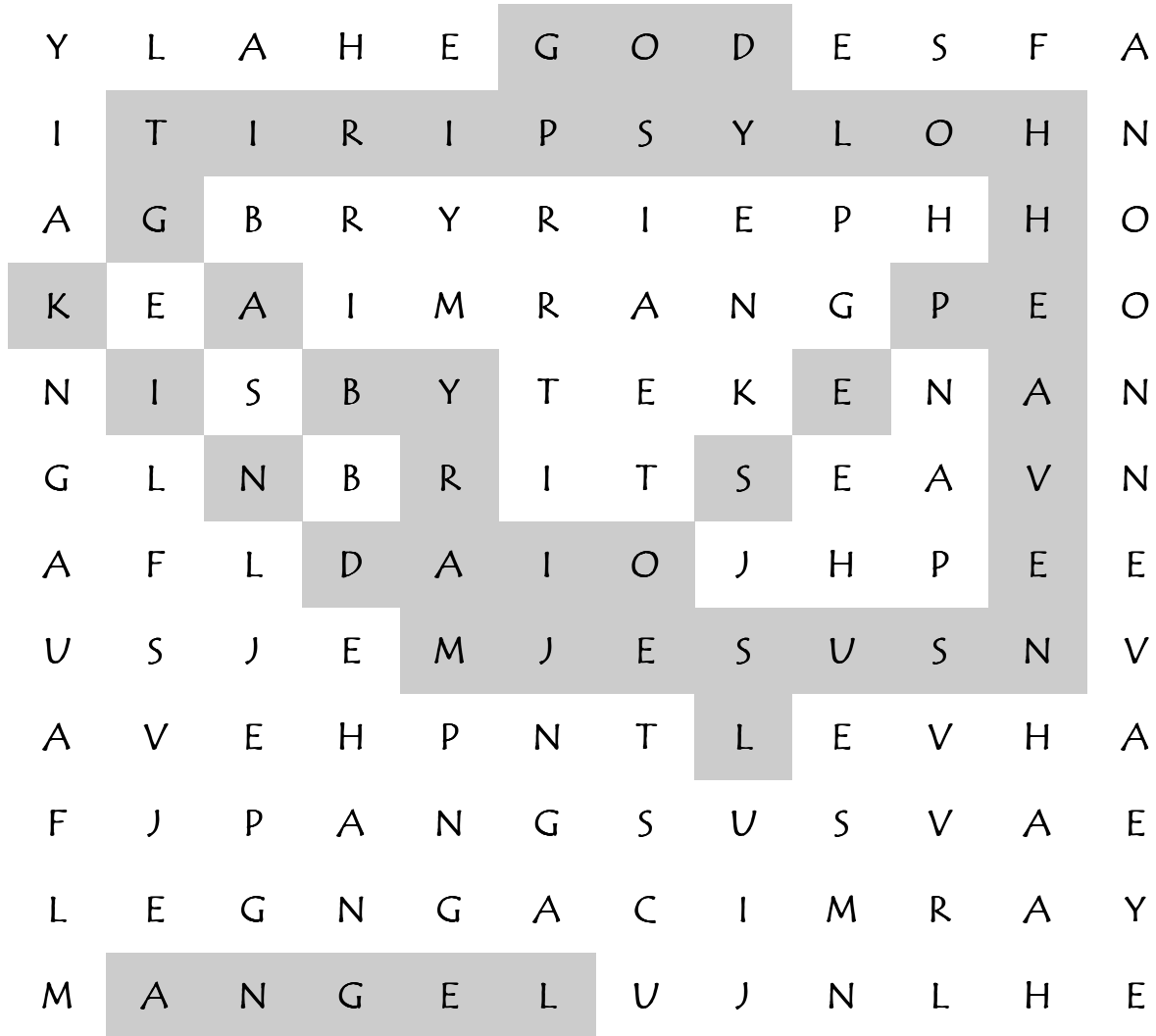
KIND

HEAVEN

HOLY SPIRIT

Jesus is God

Word Search



MARY

ANGEL

JESUS

GOD

JOSEPH

GABRIEL

KIND

HEAVEN

HOLY SPIRIT