

Christmas Lesson, Week 1:

Overview: As we enter into the Christmas season, we are taking time to understand and appreciate the purpose of celebrating the birth of Jesus. This week, we will read and discuss the different names for Jesus in the Bible.

1.Almost 740 years ago when Jesus was born, a promise was given and recorded in the Bible: "A child will be born to us. God will give a son to us. He will be responsible for leading the people. His name will be Wonderful Counselor, Powerful God, Father Who Lives Forever, Prince of Peace." **Isaiah 9:6** (ICB)

Question: According to this passage, who is the Prince of Peace and what is the significance of this name (title)? He is God's Son, and He would lead the people (us) back to God, thereby providing peace with God.

2.The word "Christ" means "chosen one," and it is equivalent to the Hebrew word for "Messiah." In **Matthew 16:16**, Peter declares: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God," and Jesus affirms Peter's confession. In **John 4:25-26**, the woman in Samaria said to Jesus: "I know that the Messiah will come. He is called Christ. When He comes, He will explain everything to us." Jesus said to her, "I, who am speaking to you, am He."

Question: According to these verses, what are the words used to describe THE CHRIST? He is the Chosen One, Son of the living God, the Messiah, the I AM (a name for God).

3.In **1 John 4:14**, the Apostles who were friends with Jesus and saw Him perform miracles and come back after dying on the cross said: "We have seen with our own eyes and now testify that the Father sent His Son to be the Savior of the world."

Question: What did Jesus' friends and followers say was the reason He had come to this world? To save believers from eternal separation from God.

Let's Talk About It:

- Why is Jesus called the Son of the living God and what does this mean to you?
- How does knowing that Jesus is the Prince of Peace impact you?
- How does this week's lesson change the way you think about Christmas?

Challenge: Take time at the end of the meeting to pray for each other.

Christmas Lesson

Overview: This week, we will discuss the real meaning behind the Christmas story, which was recorded over 2,000 years ago in the New Testament of the Bible. It is about how the promised Savior was born to Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem, just south of Jerusalem.

1. In **Matthew 1:18-21**, we learn about an angel speaking to Joseph in his sleep, instructing him and Mary to name their baby "Jesus," which means "The Lord saves."

Question: Why was the name "Jesus" given to this child? Because He was the Savior of mankind and came to bring us back to God.

2. In **Matthew 1:23**, the angel also said: "See, the virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they will name him Immanuel, which is translated "God is with us."

Question: How does the title "God with Us" tell us how He would save us from our sins? The God of the universe became one of us so that He could deliver us from our sins. Our salvation is tied to His presence.

Let's Talk About It:

- How does the truth of "God with Us" shape your understanding of the way God sees you?
- Why is it important for us to understand and know the true meaning of Christmas?
- How can you reflect and share the love of Jesus this Christmas season?

Prayer and Invitation:

Dear Heavenly Father,

I come to you with an open heart. I acknowledge my selfishness and how it has separated me from you. Even though I may not fully understand, I believe that Jesus is the way back to you and want to place my trust in Him today. Help me to turn from doing things my way and release my life over to you. Thank you for promising to hear and answer my prayer.

In Jesus Name, I pray. Amen

Pass out Response Cards NOW

If this is your prayer today, know that God welcomes you into His family, and you can begin walking in a new relationship with Him right now.