

Jesus is the Promise of Christmas

Week 3 (17th Dec 2023):

The Big Point: Jesus is the Promise of Christmas

God's Word: Jesus is Born (Luke 2:1-7)

Memory Verse: A child will be born to us. A son will be given to us. He will rule over us. And he will be called Wonderful Adviser and Mighty God. He will also be called Father Who Lives Forever and Prince Who Brings Peace. Isaiah 9:6 (NIRV)

Application: I can put my trust in Jesus.

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Series Aim: To teach kids that Christmas is all about God's promise to save us all by sending us Jesus.

Creative Video:  [The Story of Christmas \(Jesus is Born\)](#)

TEACHER'S WORD STUDY!

CENTRE YOUR HEART!

Why we do what we do

The promise of Christmas existed before Christmas was even called Christmas! God has promised to save us from sin and He did so by sending Jesus to be born on earth to save all people and show us God's great love! Jesus' birth has always been written in the Bible and promised by God. Because of Jesus, we can be with God again forever and ever, and we can have Christmas!

Series Aim: To teach kids that Christmas is all about God's promise to save us all by sending us Jesus.

Prayer Points

Keep the Kids and the Kingdom in our hearts!

Let's pray for the following (and feel free to add on your own!) :

- For the children to experience the wonder of Christmas.
- For the children to know that Christmas is all about God's promise to save us all by sending us Jesus.
- For the children to know that Jesus came to save all people and we can share about Jesus to others.

♥ Glossary

Explain using the same terms and language!

Saviour: the person who saves us from difficulty or danger, like a hero

Messiah: coming from Hebrew origin, “messiah” means ‘anointed one’ or ‘promised one’ who will save everyone. The word “Christ” also means the ‘anointed one’ in Greek

Christ: "Christ" has the same meaning as "messiah" which means "anointed one" in Greek. "Christ" is not and was never Jesus' surname, but actually a title given to him

Anointed: the chosen one for something important. In Bible times, the chosen person will usually go through a ritual where the person's head is rubbed with oil to show that he/she is set-apart to be used by God or to do God's work

Jesus: Jesus is God's son, who God sent to be born on earth as a human being to save us

Sin: Sin is not doing what God wants us to do and this makes God sad. Sin brings us far from God and makes us feel bad things like sadness or shame.

Save: To save is to take away from anything that is dangerous or harmful which we cannot help ourselves from.

Gift: a present, something that is given to us

Promise: a promise is something that is said to happen and it will happen. God promised to send Jesus a long time ago and it happened as God promised - Jesus being born, along with all that He did on earth through his life are all fulfilments of God's promise.

Hope: hope is usually a wish for something to happen in a certain way. However, biblical hope is not a wish but a strong and firm belief and trust in God's love and plans for us and the world - that we will one day be with God again.

Dead: Anything that is dead cannot feel anything, cannot talk, cannot move and cannot grow anymore - use things that are dead to illustrate this (e.g. dried leaf)

Alive: anything that is alive is able to breathe, move, grow and do many things

♥ Memory Verse Write-up

A child will be born to us. A son will be given to us. He will rule over us.
And he will be called Wonderful Adviser and Mighty God.
He will also be called Father Who Lives Forever and Prince Who Brings Peace.
- Isaiah 9:6 (NIRV)

Isaiah 9:6-7 tells us about a child who will be born as a gift to us, and will rule over us - this person is none other than the promised Jesus and he will be:

- A Wonderful Advisor - He will make wise plans and give wise advice
- A Mighty God
- A Father who Lives Forever - A kindly king who protects and cares for His people
- A Prince who Brings Peace - Jesus will bring peace to all the earth and this is a peace that will never end. Not only does he bring peace to the people and nations around, Jesus also brings peace between us and God based on what He did on the cross.

Jesus is also promised to be from David's family and be a fair and good King over God's people and God's Kingdom. Jesus has been promised even before He was born, and God's great love for us was what made sure that it will happen. This verse tells us how Jesus is indeed the promise of Christmas from God.

GROW DEEP ROOTS!

Understand the Big Point's focus

Jesus is the Promise and Greatest Gift of Christmas

The promise of Christmas existed before Christmas was even called Christmas! God has promised to save us from sin and He did so by sending Jesus to be born on earth to save all people and show us God's great love! Jesus' birth has always been written in the Bible and promised by God. Because of Jesus, we can be with God again forever and ever, and we can have Christmas!

Why did Jesus have to be born on earth?

God is the one who created all people and He loves us all very much. However, we were separated far from God because of sin. Sin is anything that we do or don't do that disobey God and the results of sin are bad things like death and being forever separated from God. God is perfect and holy, thus, He cannot be near sin. Still, God loves us and wants us to know Him and be near Him. This is why God promises to save all people.

Genesis 3:15

Genesis 3 tells us the story of people's first sin - Adam and Eve, the very first people God created fell into sin due to the serpent's deception. They ate the fruit from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil that God instructed not to eat. As a result, they were

banished from the presence of God and the Garden of Eden - a paradise garden where God's presence dwelled. This was the consequence of sin as sin is not to be taken lightly. Even so, God gave the promise to save Adam and Eve (and also all people) through Genesis 3:15 which speaks of the defeat of the serpent by a future descendant of the woman. This defeat is implied by the serpent's being crushed in the head, which is more serious than the offspring of Eve being bruised in the heel. Genesis 3:15 has long been labelled the "Protoevangelium," the first announcement of the gospel. God promised that one day, a son born into the family of Adam and Eve would fight the serpent. The serpent would strike at his heel but the son would defeat the serpent by crushing his head.

This son is none other than Jesus Christ, the promised saviour of the whole world and the hope of Christmas. God knows that the only way for sin to be taken away from the human heart and be cured was for Jesus to save us as there is no way and nothing we can do to save ourselves - just like how a drowning person cannot save him/herself. If God doesn't do anything to save us, we will all die of sin. So out of love for us, God sent Jesus to earth as a gift to save us all. And Jesus willingly came, because He too, loves humans and longs to save us all.

Jesus came as part of an elaborate plan in order to save and cure all human beings from sin. Thus, he came as a human baby to earth and today's lesson tells us how Jesus' birth came to reality ([Philippians 2:6-7](#), [Galatians 4:4](#)), showing how God's written prophecies and promises came to be fulfilled by Jesus' birth. Jesus is God's Promise of Christmas, fulfilled!

READ: Luke 2:1-7

V1-3 Jesus was born during the reign of [Caesar Augustus](#), who was the reigning Emperor of the whole Roman Empire. The Roman Empire is vast and included many foreign states, including Judea, which was the original lands of Israel and Judah. Judea is also where the majority of the events in the New Testament takes place.

Due to its sheer size, Caesar Augustus commanded a census to take place so that all the people considered under Roman rule would be counted. The census was simply for taxation purposes - so that Caesar knew the number of people there were, and knew how much taxes could be collected. In order for the census to happen, the Romans required everyone to go back to where they were originally from so as to prevent double counting or missing out on any persons.

For Teacher's Understanding: The Roman Empire Made Simple

Due to the massive size of the Roman Empire, Caesar (Latin for emperor) employed local kings to take charge and rule their own people groups and lands. These kings are known as client kings and are thus expected to be loyal to the Roman Empire and to Caesar, knowing that the state is economically, politically, and militarily subordinate to the

Romans. In turn, the Romans provided military protection of these states and colonies. [Herod the Great](#) was Caesar Augustus' client king of Judea, the area where Mary and Joseph stayed in and where Jesus was born. Jesus was born during the reign of Caesar Augustus of the Roman Empire, and the Judean rule of Herod the Great.

V4-5 Although Joseph lived in Nazareth, his hometown was in Bethlehem. Thus, Joseph, along with Mary, now heavily pregnant with Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit, had to make their way south to the town of Bethlehem to be registered for the census. Bethlehem is also known to be the city of David (Luke 2:11) as it was where David was anointed to be king of Israel. While it was an emperor's decree that resulted in Jesus being born in Bethlehem, Caesar Augustus would never have known that he was playing right into God's plans as Jesus' birth in Bethlehem has been prophesied since the days of the Old Testament. (Micah 5:2)

V6-7 Due to the census, all of the people in Judea whose hometown was Bethlehem had travelled back to their hometown. This resulted in overcrowding in the housing buildings in Bethlehem. There was no available room for Mary and Joseph to stay in, and Mary was ready to give birth.

The only available place to take shelter was actually at the basement of a household and this was where the animals are usually kept at night. While many traditional Christmas stories refer to this place as a barn or stable, it was simply the basement of a house in Bible times where the animals are usually brought in to keep them warm and give them shelter from the cold of the night.

This was the only place Mary and Joseph could take shelter in and this was where Mary eventually gave birth to her firstborn son who was of the Holy Spirit - Jesus, the Son of God. The greatest miracle in the history of the world - the eternal Son of God being born as a man, happens quietly in the basement of an obscure village in Judea. Mary wrapped the baby Jesus in swaddling cloths - strips of cloth to keep a baby warm and secure and placed him in the only place available to hold a baby - a manger, a feeding trough for animals.

Such is the humility of our Lord, Saviour and King of Kings, that he would be born in such a humble place and placed in a manger. This shows that indeed, Jesus came to serve, seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10, Matthew 20:28) rather than to be served as a king.

Link to Gospel

Today's story reveals to us the birth of our Jesus, the promised saviour fulfilled and the greatest gift of Christmas. Not only did he lay aside His majesty to take on the limited form of a vulnerable human baby, he came to be born in a humble and lowly place where animals were housed and was even placed in a manger - a feeding trough for animals!

Even so, as the Prophet Micah had prophesied, even though he is born in a small town, he rules over all of Israel ([Micah 5:2](#)). As prophesied by the Prophet Isaiah, he will also be unlike any other king or political leader and rule with justice and righteousness forever ([Isaiah 9:6-7](#)). Jesus is the promised Messiah/Saviour ([Isaiah 53](#)) and His birth is the promises of Christmas, fulfilled. Jesus' birth brings us the gift of Him being with us (Emmanuel) and the joy of knowing God, God's love, being saved from sin and being reunited with God again. Jesus helps us to know God's love and shows us God's love for us.

Jesus lived amongst us and in his adult life, started his ministry, teaching people to love and follow God, being a wonderful adviser to all people of the ways of God. Eventually, Jesus fulfilled God's promises to save us by dying on the cross to pay the price for our sins and save us all from its dangers. However, Jesus is from God and is one and the same with God. Thus, on the third day of his death, Jesus came back to life, showing His victory over sin and death!

Should we believe in what Jesus did and how He came back to life, all our sins will be taken away, and we can be with God again. ([John 3:16](#).) Indeed, on Christmas, we celebrate how "a Saviour has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord." ([Luke 2:11](#)) Jesus is the promise of Christmas, fulfilled and He makes possible how we can know God's love! He is indeed the promise of Christmas and the greatest gift!



CHECK YOUR HEART'S TEMPERATURE!

Reflect and Challenge

Reflect and Pray:

1. Listen to the song [Prince of Heaven by Hillsong Worship](#) and mull over the lyrics. Christmas is all about Jesus and how He is the promised saviour and the greatest gift from God. Christmas is fundamentally a fulfilment of God's promises and prophecies to save us all from the dangers and consequences of human sin. Jesus' birth tells us that God's love for us is enduring and that He is always faithful to His promises, even though He does not usually fulfil it in the way we envision it to be. What is one thing about the promise of Christmas that encourages you and your current situation today?
2. From a human perspective, it may look like political reasons like Caesar Augustus' decree was what determined where Jesus was born. Yet, the ultimate cause is because God is the one who controls history and who guarantees that the Messiah will be born in Bethlehem, in accordance with OT prophecy. God is sovereign, and such is the distance He will go to save His created people. His plans will always be for us to encounter Him and His love. Are you able to find hope and comfort in His plans for you through the story of Christmas? Why or why not?

