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1. What's the true meaning of Christmas?

- The true meaning of Christmas is love. [\(John 3:16-17\)](#) says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." The true meaning of Christmas is the celebration of this incredible act of love.
- The true meaning of Christmas is love. God loved His own and provided a way—**the only Way**—for us to spend eternity with Him. He gave His only Son to take our punishment for our sins. He paid the price in full, and we are free from condemnation when we accept that free gift of love. "But God demonstrated His own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" [\(Romans 5:8\)](#).

2. What's the real Christmas story?

The real Christmas story is the story of God's becoming a human being in the Person of Jesus Christ.

Why did God do such a thing? Because He loves us!

Why was Christmas necessary? Because we needed a Savior!

Why does God love us so much? Because He is love itself.

(1 John 4:8) Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

3. Why do we celebrate Christmas each year? *Out of gratitude for what God did for us, we remember His birth by giving each other gifts, worshiping Him, and being conscious of the poor and less fortunate.*

- Christians the world over celebrate **Christmas** in honor of the birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem. Various Christmas traditions have been associated with the celebration of Christmas, and different cultures celebrate in different ways. The unifying factor is that Jesus was born. The angel who appeared to the shepherds the night of Jesus' birth said, "I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord" **(Luke 2:10–11)**.
- We celebrate Christmas because, as the angel said, the birth of Jesus Christ is "**good news**." Good news is meant to be celebrated. The news of Jesus' birth would cause "**great joy**" and would be "**for all the people**"—the joyful celebration would be universal. People around the globe would be glad for this occasion.
- We celebrate Christmas because, as the angel said, "A Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord." The three titles the angel applies to Jesus are important.
 1. Jesus is the **Savior** who delivers us from sin and death.

(Matthew 1:21) She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."
 2. He is the human **Messiah (or Christ)** who fulfills the Law and the Prophets, showing that God is faithful.

(Matthew 5:17) Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.
 3. He is the divine **Lord** who has entered our world: the Almighty has taken on human flesh; God and man have been fused together in an eternal bond; God is with us.

(Matthew 1:23) The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel *(which means "God with us")*.

- In celebrating Christmas, we celebrate the Savior, because we needed deliverance.
- We celebrate the Christ in whom all of God's promises are "Yes" and "Amen".

(2 Corinthians 1:20) For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so, through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God.

We celebrate the Lord who in humility took on "**the very nature of a servant**" for our sakes.

(Philippians 2:6–8) Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

- We celebrate Christmas with gift-giving because of the "**indescribable gift**" that God gave to us **(2 Corinthians 9:15)**. We celebrate Christmas by stringing lights because the Light of the world has come to us **(John 1:4; Isaiah 9:2)**. We celebrate Christmas with carols and choirs because they express joy. We celebrate Christmas by decorating trees with stars and angels because of the eternal life Jesus brings **(John 4:14)**—and stars and angels and beauty were all associated with Jesus' birth.
- In celebrating Christmas, we celebrate the love of God.

4. Could you imagine falling down a well 20 feet below ground? Once people discovered that "**YOU**" was in the well, they didn't take immediate action. They tell you to find a way to climb back up and don't say words to encourage you.

5. What should have happened?

We see rescuers on TV all the time. They go down to where people are at. They do whatever it takes. Rescuers work nonstop.

6. What happen in the Garden of Eden?

In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve fell. Down they went, dragging **all humanity** with them into the darkness and death of sin. And what did God do? He did not tell us to find our own way

out of the mess we were in, and He did more than shout down happy thoughts to us from heaven. No, *He came down to where we were and got us.*

- That's what Christmas is all about—God's coming down to rescue us, to do whatever it took to deliver us from sure death.

Conclusion:

When God looked down at our sinful planet, He saw a whole world of people in danger. We celebrate Christmas because it was at Christmastime that the Rescuer of all mankind came to save us from the hopeless situation, we were in. God did not stay in heaven; He came down to where we are.

What should parents tell their children about Santa Claus?

- Many Christian parents are torn as to whether or not they should play the "Santa game" with their children. On one hand, he makes Christmas fun and magical, leaving wonderful holiday memories for years to come. On the other hand, the focus of Christmas should be on Jesus Christ and how much He has already given us. So, is the story of Santa Claus an innocent addition to Christmas festivities, or is he a subject that should be avoided?

Parents need to use their own judgment in deciding whether or not to include Santa during the holidays, but here are some things to consider:

- ❖ Children who believe that the gifts they receive Christmas morning are from a magical man with unending resources are less likely to appreciate what they have been given, and the sacrifices their parents make in providing them.
- ❖ Greed and materialism can overshadow the holiday season, which is meant to be about giving, loving, and worshiping God.
- ❖ Children whose parents are on a tight budget may feel that they have been overlooked by Santa, or even worse, deemed one of the "bad" boys or girls.
- ❖ An even more troubling aspect of telling our children that Santa comes down the chimney each year to leave their gifts is that it is, obviously, a lie. We live in a society that believes that lying for the "right" reason is acceptable. As long as it doesn't hurt anyone, it is not a problem. This is contrary to what the Bible tells us. "For the Scriptures say, 'If you want to live a happy life and good days, keep your tongue from speaking evil, and keep your lips from telling lies'" (1 Peter 3:10). Telling our children that Santa is real is not a malicious deception, but it is a lie.

- ❖ Also, some children honestly feel deceived and betrayed by their parents when they find out that Santa is not real. Children trust their parents to tell them the truth, and it is our responsibility not to break this trust. If we do, they will not believe more important things we tell them, such as the truth about Christ, whom they also cannot physically see.