



Lesson One

God Sends His Son, Jesus

Heart Preparation

The birth of Jesus is one of the most familiar stories in all the world. Sadly, for many, it has become nothing more than a sentimental part of a secular celebration, a manger scene on the coffee table, perhaps some plastic figures and animals in front of a church. But for God's people the *true* and *only* Christmas story, found in God's Word, is the best story of all—that God sent his Son, Jesus, to save us.

Long before Jesus came, God promised to send a Savior. He kept that promise when Jesus came to earth as a little baby. In Matthew's account, he is identified as *Immanuel*, which means "God with us." (Matthew 1:23) In Mark, he is called *Christ*, "the Anointed One" or "Messiah"—the One whom God sent to establish his kingdom. Luke identifies Jesus as "Son of the Most High." (Luke 1:32) And John tells us that *the Word* came, a term that points to Jesus as the eternal One who fully reveals God. John goes on to say "The Word was God," which says that Jesus has the nature of God, that is, Jesus has all the essential qualities of the Godhead.

How wonderful that the great God of heaven gave his people such a special gift! Because of God's amazing grace and love, he sent Jesus "as an atoning sacrifice for our sins." (1 John 4:10) Through him we have forgiveness and new life in Christ.

When Jesus was born, a crowd of angels burst into praise, shepherds saw the baby and rejoiced, and Mary treasured the wonder of it all. Our hearts, too, are full of gladness when we think that Jesus came to save us and make us part of God's family.

Teach your children about God's great love in sending Jesus, pray that each young life will trust the Savior, and lead your little ones to respond to God's gift in praise and adoration. May the Holy Spirit tenderly write the story of God's love on your heart and the hearts of your children.

Bible Background

The Reformation Study Bible expounds on several titles for Jesus: "Jesus is called 'Savior' only twice in the four Gospels (cf. Luke 2:11, John 4:42). 'Christ' means 'Messiah,' while 'Lord' is regularly used in the Septuagint (the Greek translation of the Old Testament) for God's own name, conventionally translated with small capitals ('LORD'). The most outstanding terms are used for the new Baby." (p. 1606, NKJV)



Bible Truth

God sent his Son, Jesus, to die for all our sins so we could be part of God's family.

Scripture

Luke 2:1–20



Lesson Focus

Praise God for sending Jesus to be our Savior.

Goals for the Children

- Tell why Jesus came.
- Praise God for the gift of his Son.
- Plan to share the good news of the coming of Jesus.



Memory Minute

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!

1 John 3:1a