

Christmas Lesson 3 – Week 3

A Person Who was Alive Long Before He was Born

Memory Verse: For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

Introduction

(Take some time and have the kids share their full names and if they know what their name means. You might want to check online and find out the meanings of some of their names during class.)

Last week, we learned about the promise of the coming of Jesus, the Savior of the world. The angel Gabriel told Mary she was going to have a baby, and the angel told Joseph he was to marry Mary and she would have Jesus. Do you remember this? *Let the children share anything that stood out to them or let them recall some of the account.*

Today, we are going to look at who Jesus is. We will look at some prophecies that were written about Jesus thousands of years before He came to the earth. We will also look at what makes Him so special. We'll learn about the names that Jesus was given as well.

Lesson

We are celebrating Christmas soon. What is Christmas all about? *Allow discussion. Guide them talk about when God sent Jesus to the earth. If someone brings up presents or Santa, don't acknowledge, just redirect to the true meaning of Christmas.*

I have another question for you. How long has Jesus been around?
Pause for responses.

When some people hear that question, they would probably answer by saying that Jesus was born at Christmas. That is a true answer, but that's not the whole answer. Jesus has always existed. He is God, and as God, He has existed eternally before coming to the earth as a baby.

It's important for us to remember this truth so that we can remember that Jesus is completely man. He was born as a baby and died on the cross, and, at the same time, He is completely God. He has always lived, and He rose again after He died on the cross. He now lives forever in heaven.

This morning, we're going to look at a couple of verses that help us prove that point. First, let's all read our memory verse together. Isaiah 9:6 (NKJV)

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

As we start talking about this verse, I think it's important for us to know when this verse was written. Who thinks this verse was written when Jesus was born? *Allow answers.* Would you believe me if I told you that this verse about Jesus was written 600 years before He was born? Can anyone count up to 600? That's a lot of years!

That one verse in Isaiah 9:6 tells us some very important things about Jesus. Let's just go through them together. *Have each of the following words written on the board and point to them as you discuss them.*

For to us a Child is born - Someone would be born. People are born. God is not born. God has always existed. He just always was and always will be.

To us a Son is given - Someone would be giving their son. Whose Son would be given? The verse doesn't exactly tell us, but we know who from other verses like John 3:16. Can anyone quote John 3:16? Yes, the son who would be given would be God's Son, Jesus. And the second part of this truth is that Jesus would be given. Jesus is the true gift of Christmas, given by God for the salvation of all of His people. Jesus is the Savior of the world!

And the government shall be upon His shoulder - Meaning that He will be in charge of everything and that He rules over the whole world.

And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor - The first thing we see that will be true about Jesus is that He is wonderful and wise (or so smart).

Mighty God - This is a name given to God Himself and it reminds us that Jesus is God.

Everlasting Father - Meaning that Jesus has always existed. He is everlasting and the title Father is more like King, so you could also say everlasting King.

Prince of Peace - As the Prince of Peace, Jesus will bring ultimate peace to the world by making it possible for people to be forgiven of their sins and be reunited to God.

Wow, that's a lot of things about Jesus from just one verse! It's so cool that those words were written hundreds of years before Jesus was born. Do you remember how many years? *600 years before Jesus was born.* All of those things came true when Jesus came to earth as a man.

Just in case you need more proof that Jesus has always existed as God, let's read a couple of verses that include Jesus Himself making this same statement.

Read John 8:56-58.

These verses prove to us that Jesus knew that He had existed forever before being born in Bethlehem, proving that He is God Himself. When Jesus said these words, He was talking to Jewish leaders who were confused about who he was and thought He was crazy or demon possessed.

Okay, we've got to back up a bit. Did Abraham and Jesus live on earth at the same time? No, Abraham lived about 2000 years before Jesus was born. So, the Jewish leaders are even more confused, and they say, "But you're not even 50 years old! How could Abraham have seen you?" Makes sense, right? If you're just thinking of Jesus as a man who had been born in Bethlehem, and who was only about 30 years old of His ministry on earth, He obviously couldn't have seen Abraham. BUT Jesus has existed eternally, so He responds to the Jewish leaders with an amazing statement. Jesus said, "Before Abraham was, I AM." Wow, how powerful and wonderful in that?!

In that one sentence, Jesus took the name that God had given Himself way back in Moses Day – "I AM!" He said that He, Jesus, is the I Am. He is the Lord of the Old Testament.

Show picture.

Do you know what this first picture is about? *Point to Moses and the burning bush*

Let's read in the Bible what happened. Turn to Exodus 3:1-15 (focus on verses 14-15)

(If you have younger kids, you can tell the story in your own words and then read verses 14-15 only.)

The name that God gave Moses for Himself..."I am who I am." From that point on in the Bible, God is referred to as Yahweh, which means "I Am", which is translated Lord in most of our Bibles.

So, in Exodus, God calls Himself "I Am" to Moses. And then in John, Jesus calls Himself "I Am". So, Jesus was before Moses 2000 years before He came to the earth as a baby.

And then Isaiah wrote about Jesus 600 years before He was born. These verses help us see that Jesus has always existed and that He is God. Isn't this amazing?!

Let's look at another verse. Turn to John 1:1 and then to Genesis 1:1.

When we read the Bible all the way in Genesis, the beginning of the world, we see Jesus. We need to remember that He has always lived. Jesus is God and He has always existed. When we celebrate Jesus' birth, we need to remember that we are celebrating much more than a baby in a manger, we are celebrating God Himself on earth with His people. He came to live a perfect life on earth, died on the cross, and rose again and now lives forever in heaven, and He is the only way to have a relationship with God. Because of all He has done, we can now believe in Him, and we have a way to know God.

For Older Kids

God sent His Son to not just be a cute baby in a manger with shepherds and then the wise men visiting Him when He was a little older (not a baby). Ultimately, He was given to walk up the hill of Calvary with a cross on His back and to die a painful (both physically & spiritually) death that He didn't deserve because of our sin. Jesus came to die, He came to die for the sins of His people, He came to take a punishment meant for each of us. Let's look up some verses to see why He came.

John 3:16, Romans 5:8, 1 John 4:10

Activity

Discussion

We learned in our memory verse the names Jesus was given long before He was born. Do you remember some of them? Let's play a game to remind us.

Instructions

Mix up the nametags and the matching pictures and place them all face down on the floor or table. Have kids take turns turning over 2 of the cards and determining if they are a match (a nametag and a picture should match). As matches are made, either the child who made the match or you should read the verse reference on the nametag to prove that this is a truth from the Bible about who Jesus is.

Craft

1 birth announcement pattern per kid

Name pages to help non-writers copy the words

Markers

Say: Have you ever had a friend whose mom had a baby? How did you find out about the baby and what his or her name is? Maybe the baby's mom called your mom or sent a text message or even a card with the baby's picture on it. Today, we are going to make a birth announcement for Jesus except this announcement wasn't sent out after Jesus was born. It was sent out 600 years before he was born when the book of Isaiah was written as we looked at and studied today.

Do: Have the kids color and fill in the names of Jesus on the birth announcement page. Once they are done, read the whole verse together a couple of times and discuss the names or descriptions of who Jesus is.