

**CAN YOU SEE THE
LOVE IN NOEL?**

Noel: Love is here

Christmas Eve

GOD LOVES US

“Noel” is the joyful sound signaling the birth of King Jesus. Within that first noel was the resounding message that God loves us.

CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION

- Knowing God loves us and is for us is cause for great celebration!

The angel announced to the shepherds, “I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people.”

Luke 2:10

LOVE SENT TO SAVE US

Jesus told Nicodemus, a pharisee who approached Jesus under the cloak of darkness, “Unless you are born again, you cannot see the kingdom of God... everyone who believes in him [Jesus] will have eternal life. For **God loved the world so much** that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. **God sent his Son** into the world not to judge the world, but **to save the world** through him.”

John 3:8, 16-17

THE SWEET POTATO

- She was lying on the ground. In her arms she held a tiny baby girl. As I put a cooked sweet potato into her outstretched hand, I wondered if she would live until morning. Her strength was almost gone, but her tired eyes acknowledged my gift. The sweet potato could help so little -- but it was all I had.
- Taking a bite she chewed it carefully. Then, placing her mouth over her baby's mouth, she forced the soft warm food into the tiny throat. Although the mother was starving, she used the entire potato to keep her baby alive. Exhausted from her effort, she dropped her head on the ground and closed her eyes. In a few minutes the baby was asleep. I later learned that during the night the mother's heart stopped, but her little girl lived.

CAUSE FOR SALVATION

- Knowing God's love saves us fills our hearts with gratitude for His gift.

The angel also announced to the shepherds, “The Savior— yes, the Messiah, the Lord— has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David.”

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- What did God save us from? And for?
 - God saved us from sin and separation.
 - God saved us for fellowship and life with Him.

Listen to God's heart and actions in these words from the Bible found in Ephesians, "Even before he made the world, **God loved us and chose us** in Christ to be holy and **without fault in his eyes**... he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, **he gave us life**..."