

Good News

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The good news was first promised in Genesis.

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." Genesis 3:15

The good news was announced in the Old Testament.

- God Himself is coming. (Isaiah 40:9-10a)
- God will reign. (Isaiah 52:7)
- God will forgive and restore at great personal cost. (Isaiah 53:5-6)

The good news became a Person in Jesus.

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Luke 2:10-12

"The gospel is the good news that God became man in Jesus Christ. He lived the life we should have lived and died the death we should have died—in our place. Three days later, He rose from the dead, proving that He is the Son of God and offering the gift of salvation to those who repent and believe in Him." Dr. Rice Brooks

The story and message of Christmas is 100% good news.

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. John 3:16

- Jesus came to show us God's love.
- You receive the gift of God, not by behaving, but by believing.
- Eternal life is a relationship with God, the Father and Jesus Christ, His Son.

God sent His Son so that you could become His child.

Let's Talk About It

The birth of Jesus was announced by the angel as "good news of great joy for all people." From the very beginning, God promised good news—someone who would defeat evil and restore what was broken through sin. Throughout the Old Testament, God revealed that He Himself would come, reign with justice, forgive and restore through His personal suffering on the cross. The message of Christmas is that God loved the world so much He gave His only Son. We receive this gift not by behaving, but by believing, and through Jesus we enter into relationship with God and become His children.

Luke 2:10-12; Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 40:9-10, 52:7, 53:5-6; Matthew 1:23; John 3:16, 17:3, 1:12

Discussion questions:

- Which part of the message impacted or challenged you?
- Read Genesis 3:15. Why is it significant that the promise of a Savior shows up so early in the Bible? What does this reveal about God? Why do you think God chose to reveal the first hint of the gospel right after the fall?
- Read Luke 2:10-12. If someone asked you, "What's so good about the good news?" what would you tell them? How does knowing Jesus fulfilled long-awaited promises shape your confidence in God's timing?
- Read John 3:16. How does the truth that *God loved and God gave; we believe and we receive* shape your understanding of God and the way you see the message of Christmas—and what would change in your daily life if you lived with full confidence in that promise?
- What opportunities might God be giving you to share hope with family, coworkers, or neighbors this Christmas season? What step will you take to share the good news with them?

Take a Step

Who in your life needs to hear or see the good news lived out? How can you share hope with them this Christmas?

Here's My Prayer

God, thank You that You loved and You gave. Thank You for Jesus, the greatest gift I could ever receive. Help me to believe Your good news deeply and trust that it's enough. Teach me to live each day confident in Your love, Your presence, and Your promises. Let the hope of Jesus shape my thoughts, my choices, and the way I share Your love with others. In Jesus' name, amen.