

# Christmas: Too Wonderful!

**Scripture:** Matthew 1:1-23

**Memory Verse:** Matthew 1:21 “*And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.*”

**Lesson Focus:** Our aim in this lesson is to help the kids catch the wonder of that first Christmas. There is a popular Christmas song that goes “It’s the most wonderful time of the year...” Well, why is Christmas so wonderful? We will ask the kids this and then explore Matthew 1 with them to get our answer.

**Activities and Crafts:** Coloring Picture of Joseph Dreaming, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Christmas Devotional Discussion for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>.  
Special Craft for All Kids: Christmas Banner/Sign Kit

**Introduction/Starter Activity:** Wonderful Things

We will have 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade (all of the kids) stay in the Summit Room for our starter activity. We will first ask the kids what comes to mind when they think of things that are **WONDERFUL**.

Our definition of **WONDERFUL**: *marvelous or extremely good* \*

To get the discussion started, think of some things that come to YOUR mind! \*

Use this as a launching pad to shift the discussion into Christmas.  
What is so **WONDERFUL** about Christmas? Remember our definition!

What is so *marvelous* about Christmas? What is *extremely good* about it? \*

We all have our favorite parts of it. And those things may all be very, very wonderful, indeed. But WHY? WHY do we do these wonderful things? It is because of something that happened 2000 years ago!

[At this point, play the video clip]

Did you notice Mary’s response to the news from the angel? She said it is **TOO WONDERFUL!**

We do all of these wonderful things, because something actually happened 2000 years ago that is **TOO WONDERFUL**: more wonderful than anything else in the whole world!

Let’s open our Bible’s now and see why what happened 2000 years ago is indeed, **TOO WONDERFUL!**

## Bible Study:

**Matthew 1:1-17:** This is the first book of the New Testament and this genealogy of Jesus forms a bridge between the OT and the NT. (**Teachers:** Instead of reading all of these verses, consider picking out a few of the names in Jesus's family tree that the kids will recognize and use them in the activity below to teach about how all of these famous biblical characters from the OT are connected to Jesus!)

Q: What is a genealogy? It is a family tree which describes where you came from. (**Teachers:** Consider drawing on the board an example of your family tree to a few generations or ask a volunteer to give you their names of their parents/grandparents and draw theirs. Then draw a simple family tree of Jesus and pick out a few of the names in this genealogy that the kids recognized (i.e. Abraham, Ruth, David, Solomon, etc.)

In the video we watched it was said, "*God was coming to help His people just as He PROMISED.*" What did God promise? He made many promises and much of the OT is about those promises. But we will focus on this one:

In **Genesis 12:3**, God said to Abraham, "*In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.*"

God made this promise ~2000 years before Jesus was born. For **2000 years**, God's people in the OT were waiting and waiting and waiting for God to fulfill this promise! God keeps His promises and the time had finally come for this promise to be fulfilled!

Q: Who is at the top of this genealogy? A: Abraham! This shows that Jesus did not just drop out of the sky from nowhere, but by being part of Abraham's family tree, He was God's planned fulfillment of this promise!

**Matthew 1:18-20:** Now Jesus's birth is quite special. In fact, we begin to see some of the WONDER of Christmas here. Notice back in v. 16 that it says that Joseph did not beget Jesus, but that Jesus was born of Mary. Verses 18-20 give us some more detail. They say that the child is begotten not of Joseph, but of the Holy Spirit, Who is God! (**Teachers:** On your family tree of Jesus, erase the line back to Joseph and replace it with a dashed or dotted line. Then add a new solid line that connects Jesus to God. See the drawing at the last page of the lesson for a simple example.)

So Joseph will become Jesus's adopted father, but God was Jesus's actual Father!

Boys and Girls: Part of the WONDER of Christmas is understanding the miracle of the birth of Jesus Christ. You, me, and everyone else that has come into being (except Adam and Eve), have come because they had both a human father and a human mother.

But Jesus Christ is different! He had a human mother like us, but God was His Father. That is why we call Jesus the God-man. The little baby in the manger is both God and man!

**Matthew 1:21:** Joseph was probably quite confused when Mary first told him that God had put a child in her womb! But God took care of this by sending an angel to him in a dream and Joseph was told he was to take care of the child and name Him Jesus.

Q: Do any of you know what your name means? \*

Many names have a meaning behind them and that is certainly the case with Jesus! For this name means “God saves or rescues”.

**Teachers:** Consider reading v. 21 again out loud with the kids.

Q: What is Jesus going to save and rescue people from? A: Sin and punishment!

Q: What is sin? A: Sin is breaking God’s law and we ALL have done it. You know it. I know it! “*God is making a list and He is checking it twice. And He knows that none of us have been perfectly nice.*” This means that we are all in DANGER of God’s forever punishment! We need rescue!

This is why Jesus, the God-man, came! He came on a rescue mission so that people could have their sins forgiven and be restored to God!

Boys and Girls: Until you understand this, you won’t understand the WONDER of Christmas.

**Matthew 1:22-23:** This prophecy was spoken by Isaiah 700 years before Jesus was born. (**Teachers:** Stress once again that the whole OT points to Jesus Christ and that people of the OT, like those in Jesus’s family tree, were looking forward to God fulfilling His promises)

Immanuel: God with us! The same powerful, holy God Who made the universe with just a word would make Himself small and be with us! And be like us!

But WHY? Not only do we disobey God every day, but we have made a mess of God’s world. Why would God make Himself small and enter into our mess as one of us?

Answer: **John 3:16.** **Teachers:** Have the kids read it or recite it out loud with you.

God loves you! Jesus came as one of us, lived as one of us, and died for us.

Q: How many of you like the MARVEL hero characters? Maybe some of you will even get action figures or games about these characters as gifts this year.

Notice the word MARVEL. That brings us back to our definition of WONDERFUL: *marvelous, extremely good*. The superhero stories capture our imagination and wonder as each character has super-human powers and rescues people. We MARVEL at their power and their great acts of courage.

**Key Point:** But those are just stories. We might say that they are TOO WONDERFUL to be true. And we would be right!

Yet they all are just a shadow or copy of the one REAL, true super-hero story that God set into motion 2000 years ago. \* You might say it is TOO WONDERFUL! But it is actually TRUE!

Do you MARVEL that God kept His promise to Abraham to bless the whole world with His Son?

Do you MARVEL that God loves you enough that He provided a way for your sins to be forgiven?

Do you MARVEL that God became small and suffered so that you might be saved and blessed?

This is why Christmas is TOO WONDERFUL. Gaze at Jesus Christ in WONDER this Christmas with a fresh understanding of what He came to do.

# Christmas Devotional

**Lesson Theme:** “Christmas: Too Wonderful!”

**Scripture:** Matthew 1:1-23

**Memory Verse:** Matthew 1:21 “*And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.*”

**Teachers/Parents:** We got our lesson started by asking the kids, “What is so wonderful about Christmas?” Ask that question together as a group and share with each other some of your favorite parts of Christmas.

## Discussion Questions:

- 1) **Read John 1:1-3 and then John 1:14.** Reread these verses again, but then replace all instances of “the Word” with Jesus. Stop and consider what this really means. Jesus is God and yet became man. The Creator became a creature. The infinite became finite. This is what happened at the very first Christmas. What is WONDERFUL about this?
- 2) **Read Matthew 1:18.** In class we talked about how Jesus is the only person that has ever existed who had a human parent and a divine parent. What is WONDERFUL about this?
- 3) In class we often referred to Jesus as the God-man. Can you think of any reasons why it was important for Jesus to be both God and man? Checkout [gotquestions.org/virgin-birth.html](http://gotquestions.org/virgin-birth.html) for some thoughts on this.
- 4) **Read Matthew 1:21** which tells us what Jesus Christ came to do when he entered the world at Christmas. What was that? What is so WONDERFUL about that?
- 5) **Read Luke 2:1-7.** Remember WHO Jesus is. These are the lowliest of circumstances and yet this is how the great Son of God entered the world. Why do you think the God-man came this way instead of with ceremony and splendor, which He would have deserved? What is so WONDERFUL about this?
- 6) God entering the world as the person of Jesus Christ is truly WONDERFUL. BUT Why? Why would He do this? Why would He go to so much trouble? **Read John 3:16** and discuss the answer. Who are the people that will not perish but have everlasting life?
- 7) Think about something WONDERFUL that you have received for Christmas that you have cherished and treasured. Do you treasure Jesus like this? Is there someone else that you can share Jesus with this Christmas?

