

THE CHRIST CANDLE



CHRISTMAS EVE

Thursday, December 24, Christmas Eve

Light all the candles, pray and say the key verse!

It is finally Christmas Eve! What an exciting adventure this has been, studying the Bible stories about the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ, the Son of God! No matter how many times we have heard or read this powerful story, it is still the greatest story ever told. And it is TRUE!

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, people were expecting Him to be an earthly king. They had read the prophecies about His rule and government, like the ones we read in our first week from Isaiah 9:1-7, and they thought He was going to set up His kingdom in Jerusalem. Let's read what Jesus had to say about His kingdom.

John 18:36-37

36 Then Jesus answered, "I am not an earthly king. If I were, my followers would have fought when I was arrested by the Jewish leaders. But my Kingdom is not of this world."

37 Pilate replied, "You are a king then?"

"You say that I am a king, and you are right," Jesus said. "I was born for that purpose. And I came to bring truth to the world. All who love the truth recognize that what I say is true."

1. Put a red cross over the word 'Jesus' and the pronouns 'I,' 'my,' and 'You' where they refer to Jesus.
2. Make a yellow crown around the words 'king' and 'kingdom.' Color in the crown with yellow.

Jesus talked a lot about truth while He was here on earth. He said that His kingdom is all about the truth of who He is, that He is God in human form, come to live here on earth and to show us how much God loves us. He also wants us to be citizens of His kingdom, and He wants us to join the family of God by becoming His children. Let's read more about this in the fourth gospel written by John, one of Jesus' disciples.

John 1:12-18

12 But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.

13 They are reborn! This is not a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan—this rebirth comes from God.

14 So the Word became human and lived here on earth among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the only Son of the Father.

15 John pointed him out to the people. He shouted to the crowds, "This is the one I was talking about when I said, 'Someone is coming who is far greater than I am, for he existed long before I did.'"

16 We have all benefited from the rich blessings he brought to us—one gracious blessing after another.

17 For the law was given through Moses; God's unfailing love and faithfulness came through Jesus Christ.

18 No one has ever seen God. But his only Son, who is himself God, is near to the Father's heart; he has told us about him.

1. Put a red cross over the words 'Jesus,' 'Christ,' 'Word,' 'Son,' 'someone,' and the pronouns 'him,' 'he,' 'his,' 'himself,' and 'who.'
2. Make a purple triangle over the words 'God' and 'Father' and the pronouns in v. 18 - 'his' and 'him.'
3. Circle in brown the words 'John,' and pronouns 'he' and 'I' in verse 15.
4. Make a green rectangle around the word 'believed' and color it in with yellow.

What 2 things to we have to do to become children of God? (v.12) _____

What happens to us when we do this? (v.13) _____

What kind of a birth is this? (v.13) It is not _____

Where is this rebirth from? (v.13) _____

In verse 14 "Word" refers to Jesus. What did Jesus do? _____

What was Jesus full of? (v. 14) _____

What was seen about Him? (v.14) _____

Who is the 'John' mentioned in verse 15? _____

What came to us through Jesus? (v.17) _____

According to verse 18, who is Jesus? _____

Talk Together: The most important thing you can do in your life is to join the family of God by believing that Jesus is God come to earth, and accepting Him as your personal Savior and King of your life. This wonderful invitation is to everyone, everywhere, at any age. If you have done this, thank God for sending His Son to bring you from darkness and despair into the light of the glorious kingdom of God. If you have not done this, why don't you make this Christmas Eve the first day of you new life as a child of God.

Pray this simple prayer:

Dear Jesus, thank you for coming to this earth. You came as a baby, but when you grew up, you died on the cross for my sins. You died in my place, and I thank you. Please forgive me for all my sins. I ask you to come into my heart and my life and make me a new reborn person. I want to be your child and belong to your family forever. I believe that you are truly God in the flesh and that you came to show us God's unfailing love. Thank you for all the blessing you brought to us. Thank you that I am now a citizen of your heavenly kingdom. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Christmas Day

Friday, December 25, 2009

Light all the candles again, pray, and say the key verse.

Today is probably a busy day at your house. You may have a house full of family and friends, or you may be visiting grandparents or other relatives and friends. Let's not forget to thank God for this very special season and for all the fun things we do on this day. And let's not forget the most important person in our lives, Jesus, and all the blessings we have because of Him. Here are some verses that help us remember what a loving God we have and what He has done for us.

Jesus, the Good Shepherd

John 10:14-15

"I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me, just as my Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep, too, that are not in this sheepfold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice; and there will be one flock with one shepherd."

Isaiah 53:6

All of us have strayed away like sheep. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the LORD laid on him the guilt and sins of us all

Jesus, the Light of the World

John 8:12

Jesus said to the people, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't be stumbling through the darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life."

John 12:46

"I have come as a light to shine in this dark world, so that all who put their trust in me will no longer remain in the darkness."

You can mark these verses like you have done before.

Talk Together about all the blessings we have because of the greatest gift ever given, the gift of God's Son Jesus Christ, come to be the Savior of the world.

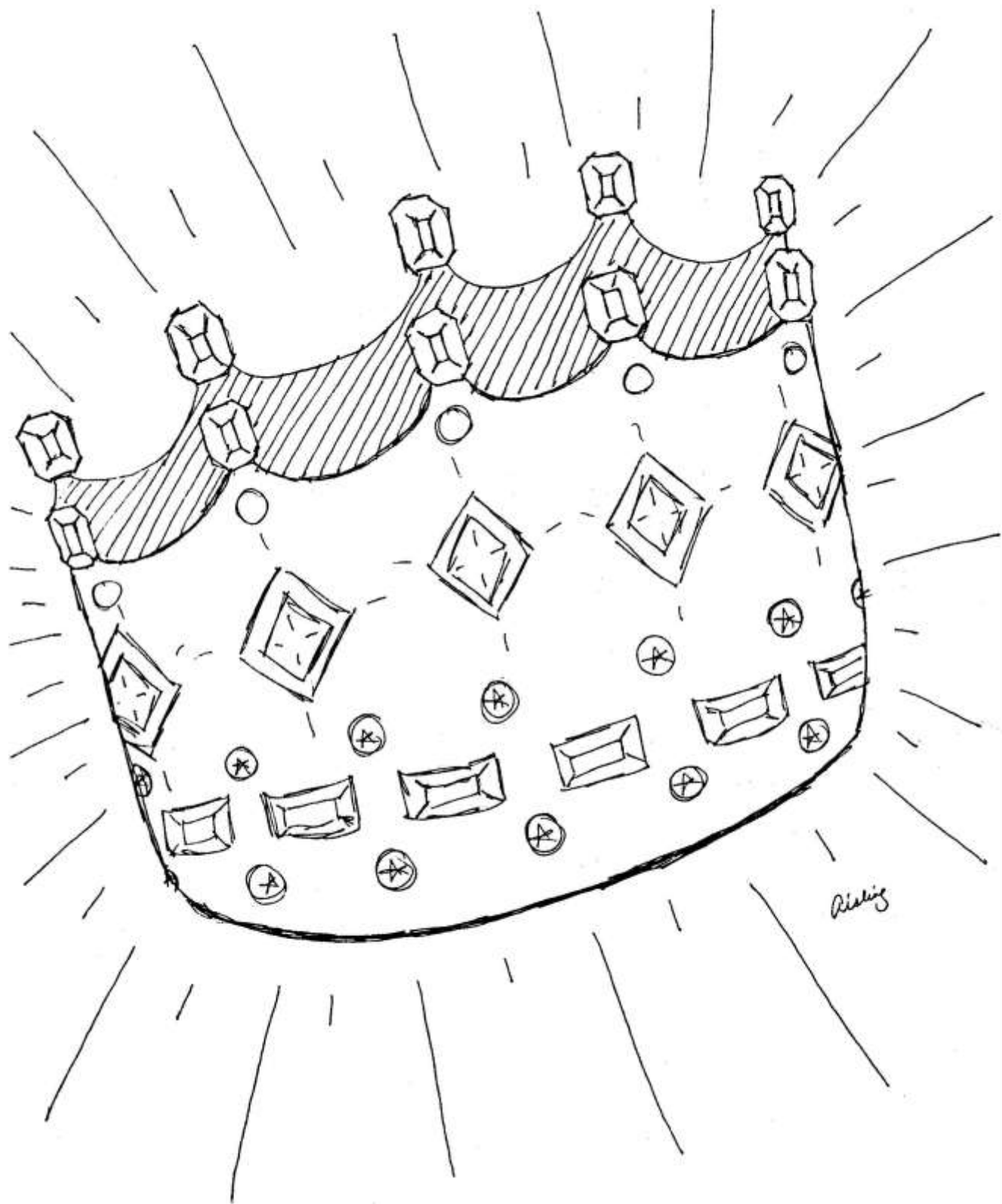
John 3:16

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

**Have a Wonderful Day in the Lord!
Rejoice in the Goodness of God!**



Jesus the Good Shepherd



Advent 2009

Dear Families,

We hope and pray that you have enjoyed the lessons in this Advent study. You have learned some wonderful things about the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. We would appreciate your thoughts, suggestions, or comments of any kind about any part of this study. Please send your responses to Eleanor Zweigle, 7938 Kelly Beach Road SE, Olympia, WA 98513, or eleanorkz@comcast.net.

May you all have drawn very close to God and His Precious Son Jesus through the study of these passages of Scripture, and may your Christmas celebrations be focused on the true reason for the season.

God Bless You Richly,
Eleanor Zweigle
Aisling Zweigle

About the Author

Eleanor Zweigle has been teaching Inductive Bible Studies since 1992 using Precept Ministries materials. She and her husband Gary live in Olympia, WA, and attend Mt. View Nazarene Church. They are thankful for their heritage of godly parents, and are blessed with three adult children and their families: Greg and Tina with Taylor and Kelsey Zweigle, Gayle and Seth with Evan and Emmett Meyer, and Grant and Aisling with Graiden and Abram Zweigle.

About the Illustrator

Aisling Zweigle lives in Vancouver, BC Canada. She is actively involved at Vancouver First Church of the Nazarene where her husband Grant is the pastor, and is a full time Mom to Graiden and Abram.

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