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DECEMBER 2010

Level
3

DECEMBER BIBLE READINGS

DATE	Book	VERSE
1	Wed	1 Cor. 9:24-27
2	Thur	1 Cor. 10:12-13
3	Fri	1 Cor. 12:1-11
4	Sat	1 Cor. 12:12-20
5	Sun	1 Cor. 12:21-31
6	Mon	1 Cor. 13:1-3
7	Tue	1 Cor. 13:4-7
8	Wed	1 Cor. 13:8-13
9	Thur	1 Cor. 15:1-11
10	Fri	1 Cor. 15:12-19
11	Sat	1 Cor. 15:51-58
12	Sun	1 Cor. 16:1-9
13	Mon	Micah 1:1-7, 2:3-4
14	Tue	Micah 4:6-13
15	Wed	Micah 5:2-5
16	Thur	Luke 1:1-4
17	Fri	Luke 1:5-17
18	Sat	Luke 1:18-25
19	Sun	Luke 1:26-33
20	Mon	Luke 1:34-38
21	Tue	Luke 1:39-45
22	Wed	Luke 1:46-56
23	Thur	Luke 1:57-66
24	Fri	Luke 1:67-80
25	Sat	Luke 2:1-7
26	Sun	Luke 2:8-20
27	Mon	Luke 2:21-31
28	Tue	Luke 2:41-52
29	Wed	Luke 3:1-6
30	Thur	Luke 3:7-14
31	Fri	Luke 3:15-18

JANUARY BIBLE READINGS

DATE	Book	VERSE
1	Sat	Luke 3:21-22
2	Sun	Luke 4:1-13
3	Mon	John 1:19-28
4	Tue	John 1:29-34
5	Wed	John 1:35-42
6	Thur	John 1:43-51
7	Fri	John 2:1-12
8	Sat	John 2:13-25
9	Sun	John 3:1-8
10	Mon	John 3:9-15
11	Tue	John 3:16-21
12	Wed	John 3:22-30
13	Thur	John 3:31-36
14	Fri	Joel 1:1-12
15	Sat	Joel 2:12-17
16	Sun	Joel 2:18-20, 28-32
17	Mon	Joel 3: 16-21
18	Tue	Song of Songs 1:15-2:2
19	Wed	Song of Songs 2:14-3:4
20	Thur	Song of Songs 4:1-7
21	Fri	Song of Songs 4:8-11
22	Sat	Song of Songs 4:12-16
23	Sun	Song of Songs 8:5-7
24	Mon	Song of Songs 8:8-14
25	Tue	Luke 4:16-22
26	Wed	Luke 4:23-30
27	Thur	Luke 4:31-37
28	Fri	Luke 4:38-44
29	Sat	Luke 5:1-11
30	Sun	Luke 5:12-16
31	Mon	Luke 5:17-26

Get to Grips

WITH GOD'S WORD

1

Make a time when you can read the Bible each day



2

Find a place where you can be quiet and think



3

Get your Bible and a pen or pencil



4

Ask God to help you understand what you read



5

Read today's Bible reading



6

Pray about what you have read and learned



MEMORY VERSES

Week 1

We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know Him who is true.

1 John 5:20

Week 2

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

Ephesians 1:3

Week 3

At the name of Jesus every knee should bow... and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord....

Philippians 2:10-11

Week 4

The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise... He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:9

Gabriel's Visit

Read Luke 1:26-33 and John 1:1-14

Every day, we see people delivering things: postmen deliver mail, milkmen deliver milk, couriers deliver parcels and packages, and the newspaper boy delivers the papers.

Well, the angels in heaven are like God's delivery people—they deliver messages to people from God. All through the Bible we see times when God sent angels to tell people things that He wanted them to know.

Mary was a young Hebrew, teenage girl; she was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph. However, one day she had a surprise visit from a heavenly messenger—the angel Gabriel. Wow, was she surprised to see him! Gabriel had come from being with God in all His glory, and he was shining like a dazzling bolt of lightning!

Gabriel spoke gently to Mary so that she wouldn't be frightened, and told her something amazing: even though she wasn't married yet, Mary was to have a baby!

This baby wasn't going to be just any baby—He was going to be a miracle baby, conceived NOT by a human father (Joseph), but by God the Holy Spirit. All babies are wonderful gifts from God,



The Angel Appeared to Mary

but this baby was the most special baby of all because He was the Son of God! One day He will rule over God's people, just as King David did many years before, but His kingdom will last forever!

Often, when Mums and Dads try to decide what to name their baby, they look in books of baby names, think of relatives to name the baby after or ask others which name would sound best. But Mary didn't have to worry about all that! Gabriel gave her a clear instruction what to name the little baby boy who was to be born. She was to call Him "Jesus," which means, "God saves!" This baby was going to be the One who would save people from their sin.

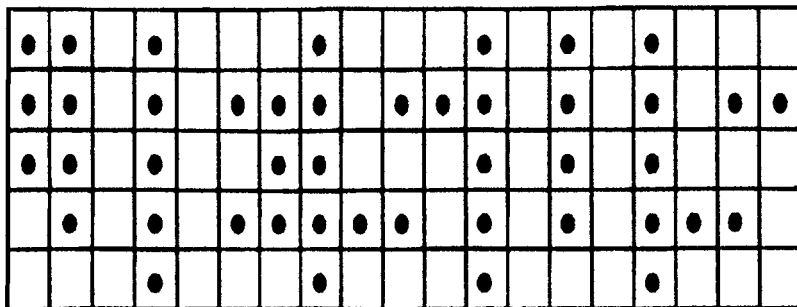
Sadly, many people today celebrate Christmas without ever realizing what it is all about. They don't even know that it's to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ—the One who came to be the Saviour of mankind.

Extra: Why did Jesus come to Earth?

Level 3 lesson 41



Shade in the boxes with dots in them to get a surprise!



1. Why was Mary's baby going to be different from every other baby?

2. What does Mary's baby's name mean?

Shepherds Surprise!

Read Luke 2:8-20 and Ephesians 1:3-6

Key Verse:

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.”

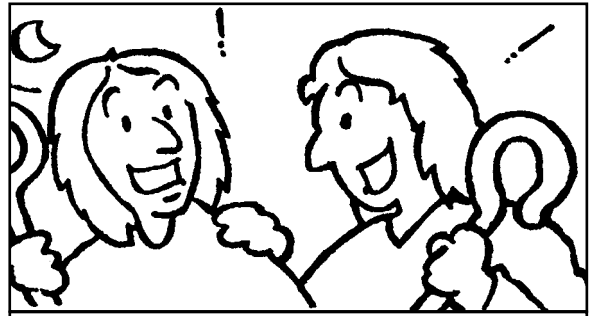
Ephesians 1:3

Everybody loves parties, don't they? We have parties to celebrate birthdays and holidays and weddings, and sometimes just because all the family are together and we want to have a good time! When there is something to celebrate people love to be joyful and sing, and do all kinds of things to show their happiness.

The message of Jesus coming to Earth has been called 'GOOD NEWS.' What is it about the Christmas story that gives people a reason to be full of happiness and joy?

On the night that the baby Jesus was born, some shepherds were watching over their sheep when suddenly, an angel appeared near them! Like the angel Gabriel who visited Mary months before, this angel was shining with the incredible light of God's glory! "Don't be afraid!" He said. "I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today, in the town of David, a Saviour has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord!"

When he finished speaking, a whole crowd of angels appeared in the sky singing praises to God. It was like a heavenly party! The angel told the shepherds they would find the Saviour, "wrapped in strips of cloth, and lying in a manger."



The Shepherds were Overjoyed

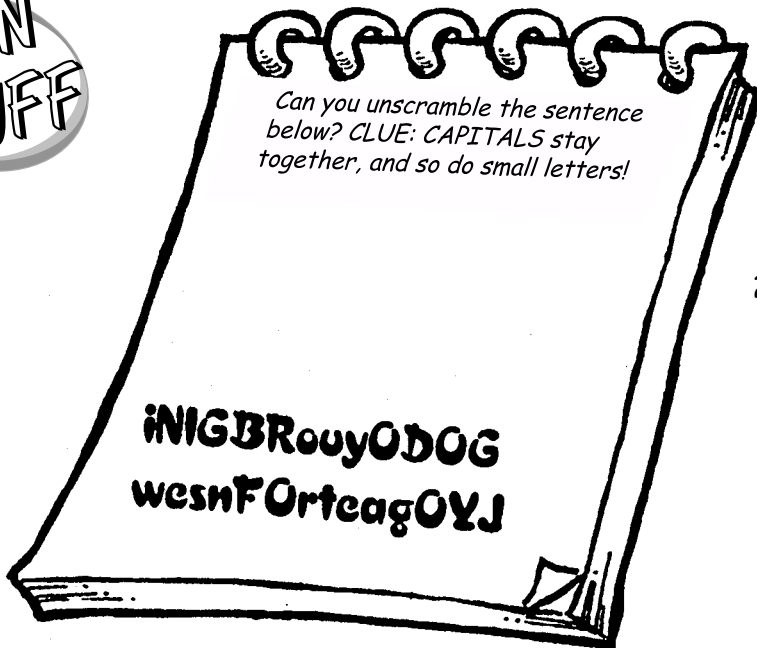
Following the angel's directions, the shepherds went to Bethlehem and found baby Jesus with His mother, just as the angel had said. They were so excited that they went about telling everyone who would listen! Then they went back to their sheep, celebrating the wonderful news by singing praises to God.

Have you believed in the Lord Jesus to save you? If you have, what better way is there to celebrate the Good News of His coming to save the world, than by telling others, and praising God for sending Him to us!

Here's one of the simplest ways to say what a Christian is: "Someone who celebrates Jesus with all of their life." The Apostle Paul described a Christian as someone who "glories (or rejoices) in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:3). This Christmas can be a real celebration for you too—much more than just a party with presents, good food and family. If you know Jesus as your own personal Saviour, you can have joy in knowing that God loves you and sent Jesus to save YOU!

Extra: How can you celebrate the Good News of Jesus in your life?

Level 3 lesson 42



Can you unscramble the sentence below? CLUE: CAPITALS stay together, and so do small letters!

INIGBRouyODOG
wesnFOrteagOYJ

1. What was the GOOD NEWS that the shepherds were told?

2. Why did the shepherds tell everyone about what they saw?

Wise Men Worship

Read Matthew 2:1-11 and John 20:26-29

Key Verse:

“At the name of Jesus every knee should bow... and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord...”

Philippians 2:10-11

Worshipping Jesus: To some people, Jesus was just another little baby. To others, He was the long awaited King, the ruler of all of God’s people, the Son of God!

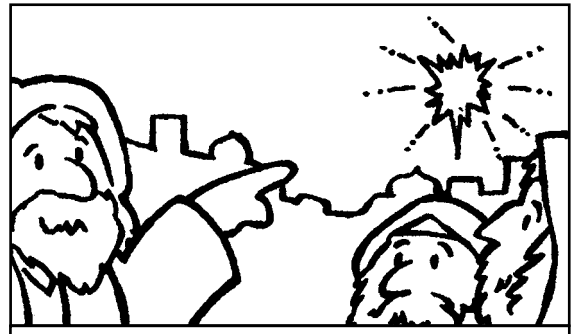
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Have you ever asked someone what their favourite ice-cream is? Some will say vanilla, some will say strawberry, many will say chocolate; everyone seems to have their own opinion about which flavour is best!

People have always had different ideas about Jesus, too. Some have loved Him, some have hated Him, some have believed He was the greatest teacher that ever lived, and some have thought He was a liar. Even when Jesus was just a baby in a manger, there were lots of different thoughts about Him.

In a distant land, far from where Jesus was born, there lived wise men who studied the stars. One day, they noticed a bright new star in the night sky and somehow they knew it meant that a new ‘King of the Jews’ had been born. Excited at this important discovery, they set off on their camels to follow this special star, and see where it would lead them!

On and on they rode, until they reached the city of Jerusalem, where they probably thought they would find Him. But King Herod didn’t know anything about it! However, the religious leaders told them that when ‘The Messiah’ – the King of the Jews – came He would be born in Bethlehem. So finally, they arrived at the



The Wise Men Followed The Star

humble home where Mary, Joseph, and the young child Jesus were staying.

And then, an amazing thing happened! When they saw the young child Jesus, these important wise men knelt and worshipped Him! Then they un-wrapped their precious gifts and presented them to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh – gifts fit for a king!

Others in Bethlehem didn’t even realise that Jesus was to be born, or that He was their long-awaited Messiah. But these Wise Men realized that Jesus was the true King, so they worshipped Him! However, evil King Herod hated the thought that another king had been born and wanted to kill Jesus. But God helped the wise men and Jesus and His parents escape to safety.

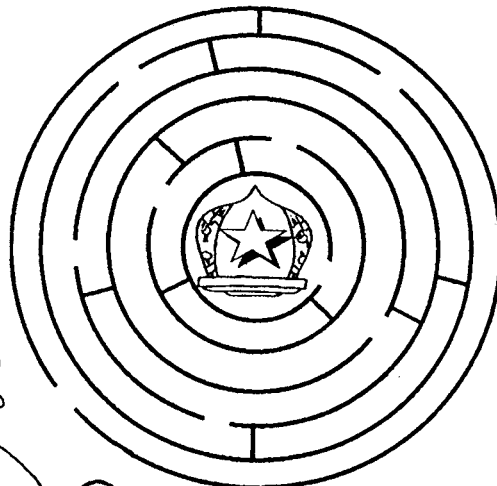
You will still meet people today who don’t care about Jesus, or like King Herod, would rather He had never been born. Sometimes you may meet those who have never even heard of Him. For these people, Christmas is just a holiday; but for many of us, God has opened our eyes to see Jesus for who He really is: our Saviour, the King of Kings! Christmas is a special time to worship Him, and the Bible tells us clearly that in a coming day “every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord” (Philippians 2:9-11)!

Extra: What do you think of Jesus?

Level 3 lesson 43



Help the Wise Men follow the star!



1. Why did the Wise Men bring gifts to baby Jesus?

2. Why do some people worship Jesus?

Simeon's Hope

Read Luke 2:25-35 and Romans 1:1-14

Key Verse:

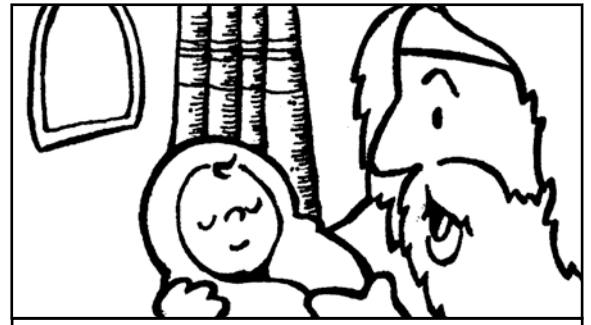
“The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise... He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”

2 Peter 3:9

How long is a long time to wait? A day? A year? Five years? Would you start to give up hope waiting for something after ten years? Well, imagine having to wait thousands of years for something to happen! God first mentioned a Saviour for the world way back in Adam and Eve's time (Genesis 3:15)!

By the time Jesus was born, God's people had been waiting for Him for a very long time. However, this did not concern Simeon, a man who loved God and worshipped Him every day at the Temple in Jerusalem. He was one of those who eagerly waited for the coming of 'Messiah,' God's promised Saviour. God told him one day that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah with his own eyes!

When Mary and Joseph took the baby Jesus to the Temple to dedicate Him to the Lord, God revealed to Simeon that this was the One! Simeon was overjoyed! He took the little baby in his arms and blessed Him. He knew that he was holding the One who would save God's people, the One who had been promised thousands of years before! Simeon prayed, "Thank you Lord! Now I can die in



Simeon And The Baby Jesus

peace; I have seen the One You promised who will be the Saviour of the world!"

Simeon had always trusted God to keep His promises; it didn't matter that it had taken so long. He knew that God wouldn't break His promise! Guess what? We are now in a similar place to what Simeon was. About two thousand years ago, the Lord Jesus returned to Heaven and promised that He would come back! Some people don't believe Jesus' words because it has been such a long time. But like Simeon, those of us who know God always keeps His promises, also know that Jesus will return for sure!

This Christmas, remember that the Lord Jesus was born several thousand years after God promised it would happen—but it DID happen! And the Bible makes it very clear that Jesus could return at any time, just as He has promised! Nearly two thousand years have already passed, but ARE YOU READY to meet Him?

Extra: What do you think of Jesus coming back to Earth?

Level 3 lesson 44



Starting at the bottom right hand square, keep reading upwards to find out how long Simeon had waited to see the Messiah?

e					
f	i	@	i	@	e
i	h	d	@	h	m
L	L	e	w	n	i
s	L	t	d	@	s

1. What had kept Simeon hoping so long to see the Messiah?

2. Why is God waiting before He sends Jesus back? (see Key Verse)



DAISIES

Have you ever walked through a paddock and noticed a wonderful patch of flowering daisies. Sometimes the ground seems to be carpeted with them, and they all open so beautifully. The daisy is one of those flowers which open their petals to the sun when it rises in the morning, and closes them at sunset. On a sunny day, you will find all the daisies open, but in the evening they will be closed again. In this way the appearance of the paddock changes completely from a beautiful daisy carpet in the morning to a green field in the evening.

A botanist proved that daisies will only open when the sunlight reaches them, though it used to be thought they would open when the right time came. One morning he got up early before the sunrise and went to the field where there was a fine crop of daisies. He put a bucket over a clump of them. At midday he again went to the field. Around the bucket the daisies were all open, but on lifting the bucket he found that everyone of those underneath had closed petals. No sunlight had got at them, so not one of them had opened. You see the daisy needs the sunlight.

When walking in long grass, you will notice that flowers growing there usually have long stems, so that the blossom is visible. If you find a dandelion or other flower growing in short grass it will not have so long a stem. The longer the grass, the longer the stem. That is a wonderful provision of Nature for God designed them that way. It enables the flower to push right up, so that the grass will not choke it or keep the sunlight from it, because the sunlight is necessary to its life.

Just as the sunlight is absolutely necessary to the daisy for it to open its petals, or to the dandelion if it is to blossom freely. We too need the sunshine of God's love if we are to live our lives to their full potential. Jesus Christ is the Light of the world and He is the one who brings God's love to us. God's Light and Love is necessary if our lives are to expand and grow and become beautiful. When God's love shines in our lives they will open, just like the daisy, and the lovely features of character that are Christ-like will show themselves in us. If we allow the clouds of sin and bad habits to come between us and that sunshine, then our hearts will remain closed, cold and unresponsive, and not at all beautiful.

Let us walk in the light of the Lord, Isaiah 2:5, and in that light we will find life.

W. S. Herbert Wylie - adapted

FREEDOM

Jonathan was a young man who craved for freedom. To him freedom meant 'no laws, no supervisors and no punishments'. According to him, there was no freedom at home and no freedom at school. There were restrictions everywhere.

One fine morning he decided to leave his home in the suburbs and go to the city to enjoy the freedom that he felt was his due. He packed up a few belongings and with the purse of money that he had stolen from his father, he set out.

For sometime everything went well. Soon reports appeared in the papers of a daring and dangerous criminal in the city. People feared to walk the streets after sundown as looting, beating and killing was rampant.



Finally the police nabbed the man behind the crimes. It was none other than Jonathan who desired total freedom and ended committing the worst crimes a man could ever get involved in. He had become a slave to sin and Satan.

We were made to live in fellowship with our Creator. God gave us a will by which we could choose to do good or evil. But the sad part is that we often prefer to do evil rather than good. The first man Adam chose to disobey God and through that single choice all mankind inherited the capacity to sin.

The Bible says: "By one man sin entered into the world and death by sin" (Romans 5:12). We continue to make choices every day of our life. Our life itself is the sum total of the choices we makes. We can choose to live in sin or in purity.

Your life does not cease with death. Death is the door to eternity. Where you will spend eternity will depend on a choice you make, not after death, but while you are still alive, here on earth. The Lord Jesus said, "Broad is the way to destruction and narrow is the path to life". Which way will you choose? Jesus Christ came to open the way of salvation; He came to offer true freedom from the enslavement of sin. By one man Adam, all mankind became sinners. By one man Jesus Christ all mankind

can become saints. By one man's disobedience all were made sinners, but by one man (Jesus Christ's) obedience, many will be made righteous. God in His mercy and love sent Jesus His son to die for the sins of the world (John 3:16), By His death He paid the penalty of our sin. He died to redeem us from the slavery of sin. By trusting Him today you can enjoy the abundant life that He promises.

He gives us freedom not only from the penalty of sin but also from the power of sin in our daily lives. He will come again one day to free us from the very presence of sin. Why don't you trust Him today and ask Him to forgive your sins? Jesus invites you to a freedom that no one else can give! Jesus said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed" (John 8:34-36).

By Betty Kurian

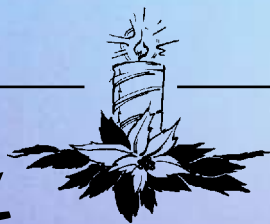
Courtesy *Facts for Faith* magazine

Christmas greetings
and love to you
and your family
from all of us at PSSM.
We pray that all of you
will know God's peace
and joy, both now and
throughout the year.



**"All glory to Jesus,
begotten of God
The great 'I AM' is
He. Creator, sustainer -
but wonder of all, The
Lamb of Calvary."**

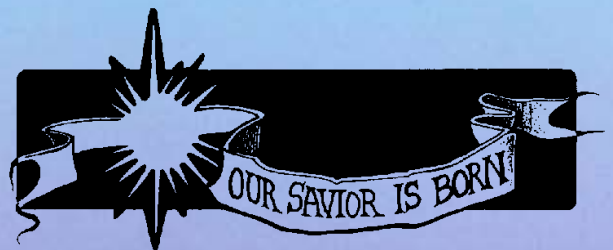
John W. Peterson



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