



**BEFORE  
YOU BEGIN**

*A FEW MOMENTS TO PREPARE.*

**TALK  
TOGETHER**

## WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE CHRISTMAS TRADITION THAT YOU WAIT FOR ALL YEAR LONG?

*USE THESE ICONS TO HELP YOU NAVIGATE THIS WEEK'S LESSON*

 **TALK TOGETHER**

Family conversations with God's Word.

 **MORE TO EXPLORE**

Discover how this conversation fits into God's Big Story.

 **THRU-THE-WEEK SHEET**

Post it on the fridge. Use it all week.

 **COLORING PAGE**

Keep little hands busy before, during and after your family conversation.

**CONT.** 

Traditions are a fun way to celebrate special days. When we celebrate Christmas this week, we are celebrating the birth of Jesus, the Light of the World.

**Let's read about Jesus' birth in Luke 2, verses 1-12.**

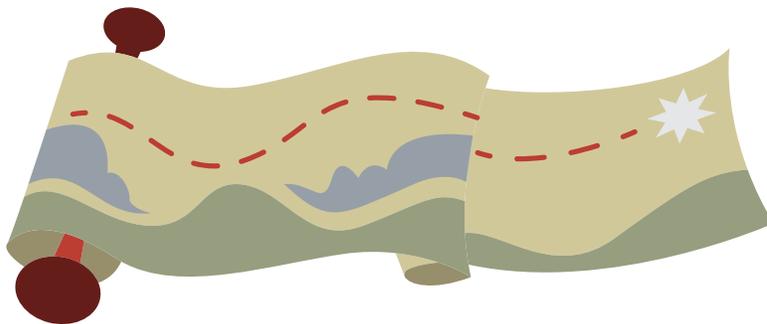




*IN THOSE DAYS A DECREE WENT OUT FROM CAESAR AUGUSTUS THAT ALL THE WORLD SHOULD BE REGISTERED. THIS WAS THE FIRST REGISTRATION WHEN QUIRINIUS WAS GOVERNOR OF SYRIA. AND ALL WENT TO BE REGISTERED, EACH TO HIS OWN TOWN. AND JOSEPH ALSO WENT UP FROM GALILEE, FROM THE TOWN OF NAZARETH, TO JUDEA, TO THE CITY OF DAVID, WHICH IS CALLED BETHLEHEM, BECAUSE HE WAS OF THE HOUSE AND LINEAGE OF DAVID, TO BE REGISTERED WITH MARY, HIS BETROTHED, WHO WAS WITH CHILD. AND WHILE THEY WERE THERE, THE TIME CAME FOR HER TO GIVE BIRTH. AND SHE GAVE BIRTH TO HER FIRSTBORN SON AND WRAPPED HIM IN SWADDLING CLOTHS AND LAID HIM IN A MANGER, BECAUSE THERE WAS NO PLAGE FOR THEM IN THE INN.*

*AND IN THE SAME REGION THERE WERE SHEPHERDS OUT IN THE FIELD, KEEPING WATCH OVER THEIR FLOCK BY NIGHT. AND AN ANGEL OF THE LORD APPEARED TO THEM, AND THE GLORY OF THE LORD SHONE AROUND THEM, AND THEY WERE FILLED WITH GREAT FEAR. AND THE ANGEL SAID TO THEM, "FEAR NOT, FOR BEHOLD, I BRING YOU GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY THAT WILL BE FOR ALL THE PEOPLE. FOR UNTO YOU IS BORN THIS DAY IN THE CITY OF DAVID A SAVIOR, WHO IS CHRIST THE LORD. AND THIS WILL BE A SIGN FOR YOU: YOU WILL FIND A BABY WRAPPED IN SWADDLING CLOTHS AND LYING IN A MANGER."*

**LUKE 2:1-12**





The Shepherds went immediately to find Jesus and worshiped Him. But they weren't the only ones searching for the Light. Wise men from the east, following a great star, came looking for Jesus as well. **Matthew tells us their story in chapter two, verses 9b through 11. Let's read what he says:**

*THE STAR THAT THEY HAD SEEN WHEN IT ROSE WENT BEFORE THEM UNTIL IT CAME TO REST OVER THE PLACE WHERE THE CHILD WAS. WHEN THEY SAW THE STAR, THEY REJOICED EXCEEDINGLY WITH GREAT JOY. AND GOING INTO THE HOUSE, THEY SAW THE CHILD WITH MARY HIS MOTHER, AND THEY FELL DOWN AND WORSHIPED HIM. THEN, OPENING THEIR TREASURES, THEY OFFERED HIM GIFTS, GOLD AND FRANKINCENSE AND MYRRH.*

**MATTHEW 2:9B-11**

Jesus was the Light God's people had been waiting for. Soon, He would bring sight to blind eyes, freedom to captives and light to those walking in darkness. **Jesus, the Light of the World, had finally arrived.**



END OF TALK TOGETHER

# \* MORE TO EXPLORE

WEEK OF DEC. 18, 2022

## GOD'S BIG STORY

CREATION



EVERYTHING  
GOD CREATED  
WAS GOOD.

FALL



ADAM & EVE SINNED,  
AND SIN PASSED TO  
ALL PEOPLE, EVEN  
YOU AND ME.

REDEMPTION



THOUGH ALL OF  
US ARE SINNERS,  
CHRIST DIED  
FOR US.

RESTORATION



JESUS WILL  
COME AGAIN.

### FIND IT IN THE BIBLE: JOHN

This week's verse comes from the book of John. John is the last of four books known as the Gospels. The book is written by the disciple whom Jesus loved, John. The book of John tells about the miracles or signs of Jesus.

### \* WHY IS JESUS' BIRTH TOLD DIFFERENTLY IN MATTHEW AND LUKE? \*

Matthew wrote his Gospel for the Jews. He leans into the point of view of Joseph, who was a descendant of King David, and includes details that would have reminded his audience of Old Testament messianic prophecy.

Luke was written for Theophilus. Theophilus could have been an actual person or a fictional name used to represent and address Christians who needed encouragement in their faith. Luke spends a lot of time on specific details from eyewitness accounts to emphasize God's work in history.

Neither account contradicts the other; but because they were written to different people for different purposes, they highlight different parts of the story of Jesus' birth. They give us the information as God intended.

### OT-NT CONNECTION

The Old Testament talks about Jesus' coming long before He was born! Isaiah writes about how God's people will reflect the light He has shone on them and alludes to the visitation of the wise men in Bethlehem.

**Read Isaiah 60:1-7.**

- Does anything remind you of the wise men in Matthew?
- How can you share the good news of Jesus' birth with people in your life?

### READ



Read Revelation 21:22-25. John describes a heavenly city that no longer needs natural light because the Lord and the Lamb are its light. Now, compare this passage to the prophecy of Isaiah in the OT-NT Connection. This passage in Revelation is a long-term fulfillment of Isaiah 60:1-7. What similarities stand out to you?

### WHY DOES JOHN'S GOSPEL NOT INCLUDE DETAILS OF JESUS' BIRTH?

Most scholars believe the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke were written before the fall of Jerusalem in A.D. 70. They believe John was written after (sometime between A.D. 80-95). Because Matthew and Luke had already included specific details about the birth of Jesus (under the influence and inspiration of the Holy Spirit), it wasn't necessary for John to do the same. Instead, John gives us a picture of Jesus' work from creation and explains the context of His birth in terms of darkness and light, just like the Old Testament prophets.

### JOURNAL



Attend a Christmas service, play or concert as a family. Talk about what represented Scripture, what was embellished or what was left out from the true story. Write about this in your journal.

# ★ THRU-THE-WEEK SHEET

WEEK OF DEC. 18, 2022

## ♥ MEMORIZE

**THE TRUE LIGHT,  
WHICH GIVES  
LIGHT TO  
EVERYONE, WAS  
COMING INTO  
THE WORLD.**

**JOHN 1:9**

**Q: WHO IS THE LIGHT  
OF THE WORLD?**

**A: JESUS**

## SHARE

Tell your kids what Christmas meant to you before you became a Christian and what it means to you now. Describe how the holiday season has changed since you found the light of Jesus and how your celebrations intentionally reflect your faith in Christ.

## WATCH



Watch this Memory Melody video with your kids to memorize this week's verse!

## PRAY

DEAR HEAVENLY FATHER, THANK YOU FOR SENDING JESUS AS A BABY AT CHRISTMAS AND BRINGING LIGHT INTO OUR WORLD. MAY THAT LIGHT SHINE BRIGHT, DRAWING THOSE FAR FROM GOD NEAR, AS PEOPLE CELEBRATE YOUR BIRTH AROUND THE WORLD. KEEP US IN YOUR LIGHT SO WE MAY BE A LIGHT TO OTHERS. AMEN.

## CAROL

Ask your child to help you pick out two or three favorite Christmas carols about Jesus' birth. Gather your family together and go to a neighbor's house to sing for them!

## FIND

This week's verse is found in the book of John. Help your child find the book of John. Is this book in the Old or New Testament? How many chapters are there?

## SERVE

Before opening presents as a family, bring a meal or special Christmas treat to a local hospital, fire station or police department to bless those who will spend this holiday serving your community. Include a note thanking them for their service and praying for their safety.

## ACT

Encourage littles to act out the story of Jesus' birth with special toys, stuffed animals or a child's nativity set. Ask them to identify the characters and retell the nativity from each character's perspective. Play along with them and consider what would happen next for each character.



SCAN HERE TO LISTEN  
WHEREVER YOU ARE!

## SING

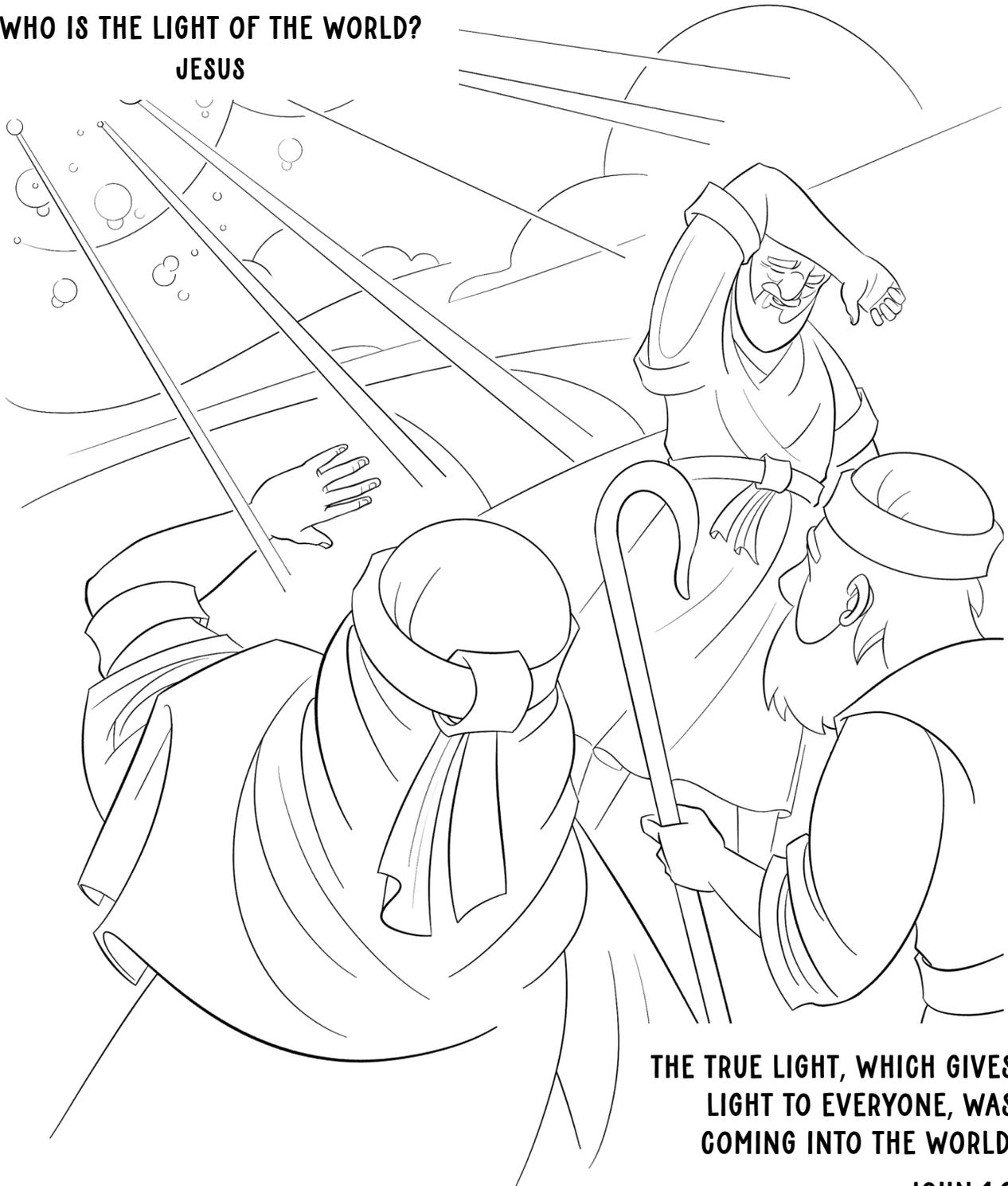
Listen to this playlist throughout this series to praise God for the Light of the World.

  
**Talk About**



**WHO IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD?**

**JESUS**



**THE TRUE LIGHT, WHICH GIVES  
LIGHT TO EVERYONE, WAS  
COMING INTO THE WORLD.**

**JOHN 1:9**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_