

JESUS FOLLOWERS REJOICE IN THE KING

ADVENT: THE KING IS COMING!

BIG TRUTH: JESUS FOLLOWERS REJOICE IN THE KING

Zechariah 9:9; Deuteronomy 12:7; 1 Chronicles 16:10; Nehemiah 12:43; Psalm 13:5; 35:9; Habakkuk 3:18; John 16:22; Romans 5:11; Philippians 4:4; 1 Peter 4:13; Revelation 19:7, 16

BIBLE VERSE: LUKE 2:10-11

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.'

BIG IDEAS

- We rejoice in the King's grace.
- We rejoice in the King's humility.
- We rejoice that the King is the Savior.

BIBLE STORY: LUKE 2:1-21

Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in a stable. His parents laid him in a manger and the angels rejoiced. Angels appeared to shepherds nearby to tell them the good news. God's people rejoiced at the Messiah's coming and they rejoice that the King is returning.

ADVENT

Advent is a special celebration and contemplation of the coming of Jesus Christ that Christians participate in during the Christmas season. Advent literally means "arrival" or "coming". During Advent season God's people remember and rejoice in Jesus' first coming to save his people from their sins, while at the same time long with anticipation and expectation for his return. Advent centers on Jesus, the saving Son. He alone is the one true King!

BIG AIMS



Every child should know that:

- Jesus is the one and only King.
- Jesus came and is coming again.
- We exist for Jesus.



Every child should feel:

- The longing within their soul for the King.
- A dissatisfaction within their soul for things of the world.
- Awe and wonder that the King has come and is coming again.



Every child should strive to:

- Spend time each week with their family talking about the King.
- Memorize the Bible Verse each week.
- Tell someone else about the King who came and is coming again.



Every child should want to:

- Trust the King in the everyday struggles of life.
- See and seek Jesus more than anything else this Christmas season.
- Tell others who are lost about the good news of the King.

FAMILY DEVOTION: THE GOOD NEWS

Jesus' birth was good news to those who had been waiting for the Messiah to come. His birth is good news to all those who believe because it means salvation. His second coming is good news because it means deliverance from this world.

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The coming of the King is good news.

"And the angel said to them, 'Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy...'"

- Before Jesus came to the earth, there was no way for people to be reconciled to God. Sin separated man from God, causing a great chasm that could only be eliminated by a perfect sacrifice. The people looked forward to the coming of the Messiah because it meant salvation for them.
- When Jesus came to the earth, born as a baby in a manger, the angels rejoiced and brought the good news to shepherds who were nearby. The angels' declaration that Jesus' birth was good news was true for all people, not just the shepherds. Jesus' coming meant that salvation was coming to God's people.

The King brings joy to His people.

"...Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

- When Jesus was born, the people who had longed for and waited for His coming rejoiced. His birth brought joy to God's people because they knew He was their Savior. They felt joy that they were no longer without hope of being reconciled to God.
- The King's second coming brings joy to His people because it means He will return and make all things new again. When the King returns again, He will bring with Him a new heaven and earth and sin will no longer reign on the earth. This is great news to God's people who long for the King to reign on earth as He does in Heaven.

The King brings new life.

"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."

- The announcement of Jesus' birth meant that there would be a way for people to have their sins forgiven them. His birth meant that God had sent the Savior to the world to redeem His people. People had longed for this and waited for this salvation to come and now it had.
- Today, God's people look back and rejoice that the King came, and they look forward to His return when sin no longer rules this earth. The King's first coming meant that sin was defeated and His second coming ushers in eternal life free from death, sorrow, and sin.

BIBLE STORY: LUKE 2:1-21

Jesus Followers Rejoice In The King

Opening Illustration:

Play a game of musical chairs or musical ball with the preschoolers. The preschooler left holding the ball or without chair when the music stops gets to shout out a praise to Jesus the King. Remind them that Jesus came in humility because of God's grace. He brought salvation to the world.

BIG IDEA: WE REJOICE IN THE KING'S GRACE.¹**God is full of mercy and grace.**

- God is a gracious and merciful God. His love and mercy are immeasurable. He extends patience and loving-kindness to humankind because He is a good and perfect God.
- God's mercy and grace are greater than man's sinfulness. His mercy and grace overcome our sinfulness and enable us to have a relationship with Him.
- God chooses to show us kindness and grace instead of pouring wrath upon us.
- No person is as gracious or merciful as God. He is perfect in His grace and mercy.



Spend time singing praise songs about God's grace with the children. Play a few songs for the children and ask them to sing along. Talk with them about how God's people rejoice because of His grace.

God revealed Jesus' birth first to the shepherds.

- After Jesus was born in Bethlehem, angels appeared to shepherds who were tending their flocks in a nearby field.
- Shepherding was considered a lowly job that wasn't to be desired, yet God chose these men to reveal the coming of the King.
- God showed His great grace by revealing this good news of great joy to the shepherds, the least likely people to be chosen by men to hear this news.
- God revealed His heart and the way He loves all of us even though we are sinful and reject Him.

His people rejoice because of His grace.

- God's grace is a cause for rejoicing. It is because of His grace that we have new life here on earth and eternal life after this life ends.
- If it weren't for the graciousness of God, we would be hopelessly lost in our sin. We would still be spiritually dead and living a futile life.
- God's people find joy and rejoice always because Jesus' birth brought salvation to the world.

Why do God's people rejoice because of His grace? (His grace brought salvation to the world...something God's people do not deserve.)

1. Romans 3:23-24: God's grace provides salvation for His people. His people rejoice in His grace because it means life for them.

JESUS FOLLOWERS REJOICE
IN THE KING**BIG IDEA: WE REJOICE IN THE KING'S HUMILITY.²****Jesus' birth shows His humility.**

- Jesus is fully God. He is one person of the three persons of God. This means that He is the God of the universe. He humbled Himself by being born as a baby into the world.
- Because Jesus was a baby, He humbled Himself to a place of need from the people He created. He showed even greater humility by dying on the cross in place of sinful people.
- Jesus was born in a stable where animals slept. He wasn't born in a palace like most Kings.
- He slept in a manger where animals ate and drank.



Use a bandana as a blindfold and let the children take turns wearing the blindfold. The child wearing the blindfold gets to be led around by other students. Once the children all have a chance to wear the bandana, talk with them about how hard it is to let someone else lead us. Talk about humility and how Jesus humbled Himself on our behalf. Remind them that we rejoice in His humility because it brings us salvation.

We rejoice because He humbled Himself.

- That Jesus humbled Himself is a reason to rejoice. We rejoice because His humility provides salvation to us. Salvation means we have spiritual life here on earth and eternal life with God.
- Jesus could have been born in the grandest of palaces, but instead, He came into the world in the lowliest of places.
- He entered the world as a baby in a stable with other animals. His birthplace was not spectacular, yet it was good news of great joy to everyone.

We humble ourselves because He first humbled Himself.

- We understand humility and what it means to serve one another because Jesus first humbled Himself.
- Because He humbled Himself, we humble ourselves for His glory.
- We lower ourselves and die to ourselves that we might be like Him. We rejoice to humble ourselves because He first did so.

Why do God's people rejoice in Christ's humility? (His humility means that His people have eternal life and freedom from sin.)

2. 2 Corinthians 8:9: *Jesus humbled Himself to lower Himself to become like humans that He might save them.*

BIG IDEA: WE REJOICE THAT THE KING IS THE SAVIOR.³**Jesus came as the promised Messiah.**

- God promised to send salvation to the world. When sin first entered the world, God promised to send a Savior to right the wrong done by mankind.
- Jesus came as that promised Messiah, or Savior. He came to become like mankind that He might live the perfect life that we could not.
- He did live the perfect life and then died on the cross in our place that we might have our sins forgiven.
- Jesus was born in a stable where lambs would have lived and slept.
- He is the Lamb of God and brought with Him salvation to the world.



Bring in a pair of toy handcuffs. Let the children take turns wearing the handcuffs. After the children take turns wearing the handcuffs, talk with them about how Jesus sets us free from our sin and this brings us joy! We rejoice because He is our Savior.

The world rejoiced at His birth.

- When Jesus was born, angels rejoiced. They praised God that He had sent salvation to the world.
- The angels appeared to shepherds who were nearby the birth of Jesus. The angels shared the good news of Jesus' birth with the shepherds and they, too, rejoiced and praised God that salvation was near.
- When Jesus came to the earth, the world felt joy that it was no longer hopeless.

We rejoice because the King is a Savior.

- Now, God's people rejoice at the King's coming because it means salvation and new life.
- The angels appeared to shepherds who would have tended to lambs.
- Jesus is the Savior because He is the Lamb of God sent to save the world from its sin.

Why do we rejoice that the King is a Savior? (We rejoice because the King saves us from our sin and sets us free.)

3. 1 Timothy 1:15: *Jesus came as the Savior of the world and His people rejoice in this.*

HOOKS



KNOW

What Is A Savior?

Write the word "Savior" on the board and help the children define what it means. Point them to Bible verses that identify Jesus as the Savior of the world. Remind them that Jesus is our Savior and we rejoice that He came to the earth. Talk with them about how we rejoice at His birth this Advent season by living for Him and being obedient to Him.



DO

A Song For The King

Give the children a copy of a Christmas song, such as "Joy To The World". Give them crayons and markers and have them decorate their copy of the song. Talk with them about how we rejoice in the Savior's birth because He brings salvation. We can rejoice by singing songs to Him and about Him.



FEEL

A Prayer Of Joy

Lead the children in a prayer that praises God for sending the King. Lead them to pray thanking God for sending a Savior to save the world.



WANT