What Gift Will I Bring To Jesus

The Hope of Christmas - Part 1

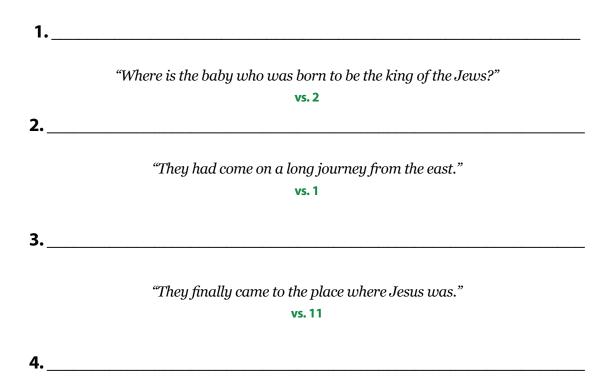
"Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judea during the time when Herod was king. After Jesus was born, some wise men from the East came to Jerusalem. They asked, 'Where is the baby who was born to be the king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.'

"When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, as well as all the people in Jerusalem. Herod called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of the law and asked them where the Christ would be born. They answered, 'In the town of Bethlehem in Judea...' "Then Herod had a secret meeting with the wise men and learned from them the exact time they first saw the star. He sent the wise men to Bethlehem, saying, 'Look carefully for the child. When you find him, come directly and tell me so I can worship him too!'

"After the wise men heard the king, they left. The star that they had seen in the east went before them until it stopped above the place where the child was. When the wise men saw the star, they were filled with joy. They came to the house where the child was and saw him with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their gifts and gave him treasures of gold, frankincense, and myrrh."

Matthew 2:1-11 (NCV)

WHAT MADE THE WISE MEN WISE?



"We have come to worship him."

"They bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and gave him their gifts of gold and of frankincense and myrrh."

vs. 11

GOLD = the most precious metal, the gift for a KING. FRANKINCENSE = used in Temple worship to GOD. MYRRH = a spice used to embalm a body after DEATH!

WHAT SHOULD I GIVE TO JESUS?

1.

"I want you to trust me in your times of trouble, so I can rescue you and you can give me glory!" Psalm 50:14 (LB)

2.

"Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all the other things will be given to you as well." Matt 6:33 (NIV)

3._____

"Open up before God, keep nothing back! He'll do whatever needs to be done." Psalm 37:5 (MSG)

> "Wherever your treasure is, your heart will be there also." Luke 12:34 (NIV)

4._____

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

John 3:16 (NIV)

"Go out into highways and countryside and urge everyone you find to come in, so that the house will be full. Luke 14:23 (NLT)

Will I Make Room For Jesus

The Hope of Christmas - Part 2

"In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria. And everyone went to his own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was NO ROOM FOR THEM in the inn."

Luke 2:1-7 (NIV)

1._____

"They saw him, but somehow did not recognize him." Luke 24:16 (TEV)

Jesus: "If you only knew the gift God has for you and who I am, you'd be asking me for a drink and I'd give you living water."

John 4:10 (NLT)

2._____

"The unspiritual person has no room for the gifts of God's Spirit; to him they are folly; he cannot even recognize them."

1 Cor. 2:14 (NJB)

"They are overwhelmed with worries about all the things they have to do and all the things they want to get. The stress strangles what they heard, and nothing comes of it." Mark 4:10 (MSG)

"Mary sat at Jesus' feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to Jesus and said. 'Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!' But Jesus said, 'Dear Martha, you get so upset over all these details! But there's really only one thing worth being concerned about, and Mary has discovered it."

Luke 10: 39-42 (NLT)

WHY DO WE HAVE NO ROOM FOR JESUS?

3._____

"People are too proud to seek God. They do not look for Him; there is no room for God in their thoughts." Psalm 10:4 (NCV)

"We're all like sheep who've wandered off and gotten lost. We've all done our own thing, gone our own way." Isaiah 53:6 (MSG)

WHY SHOULD I MAKE ROOM FOR JESUS?

1. TO KNO W _____

"Before anything else existed, there was Christ, with God. He has always been alive and is himself God. He created everything there is--nothing exists that he didn't make! Eternal life is in him, and this life gives light to all mankind."

John 1:1-4 (LB)

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16 (NIV)

"He came to the world, which belonged to Him but those who were His did not receive Him and did not welcome Him. But to those who DID receive and welcome Him, He gave the privilege and power to become the children of God, because they believe in his name!"

John 1:11-12 (Amp)

2. TO EN JOY

"The smallness you feel comes from within you. Your lives aren't small, but you're living them in a small way....Open up your lives. Live openly and expansively!" 2 Cor. 6:12-13 (MSG) "I am leaving you with a gift - peace of mind and heart! And the peace I give you isn't fragile like the peace the world gives. So you won't be troubled or afraid." John 14:27 (LB)

> "God does not give us a spirit that makes us afraid or fearful. Instead He gives us a spirit of power and love and self-control." 2 Tim. 1:7 (NCV)

"In LOVE there is NO ROOM for fear, but perfect love drives out all fear!"

HOW DO I MAKE ROOM FOR JESUS?

Jesus: "Listen! I am standing and knocking at your door. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in and we will eat together." Revelation 3:20 (CEV)

"Open up before God, keep nothing back; he'll do whatever needs to be done!" Psalm 37:5 (MSG)

Lost and Found

The Hope of Christmas - Part 3

Jesus: "I have come to SEEK and to SAVE those who are LOST." Luke 19:10

WHAT DO I LOSE WHEN I'M "LOST"?

Like a lost sheep...

1. I LOSE _____

"All of us have strayed away just like lost sheep. We've all left God's path to follow our own ways." Isaiah 53:6

2.1LOSE_____

"My people are wandering like lost sheep, without a shepherd to protect and guide them." Zechariah 10:2

Like a lost coin...

3. I LOSE ______

"No one has ever seen or heard or even imagined the wonderful things God has prepared and arranged for those who love him."

1 Corinthians 2:9

"God can do anything, you know far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by his power working within us."

Ephesians 3:20

Like a lost son...

4. I LOSE _____

"The younger son wasted all he'd been given and eventually he became miserable and lonely."

Our wa ndering nature separates us from God Our circumstances can separate us from God Our choices separate us from God

Jesus told 3 stories to explain what he meant: "The Lost Sheep" (Luke 15:1-7) "The Lost Coin" (Luke 15:8-10) "The Lost Son" (Luke 15:11-31)

5. I LOSE _____

"What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, if he loses his soul?" Luke 9:25

BUT I DON'T LOSE _____

"God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son so that whoever believes in him may not be lost, but have eternal life."

John 3:16

Christmas is God's mission to save us!

"The angel announced: 'Don't be afraid! I bring you good news that will be a great joy to ALL people: Today a SAVIOR has been born FOR YOU! He is Jesus Christ the Lord."

Luke 2:11

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE "SAVED"?

Like the Shepherd going aft er his lost sheep...

1. JESUS CAME_____

"Jesus is the only one who can bring us to God. He became a human and gave himself to rescue all of us." 1 Tim. 2:5

"Trust me in your times of trouble, and I will rescue you, and you will give me glory." Psalm 50:15

Like the Woman searching for her lost coin...

2. JESUS CAME _____

Jesus: "Come to me, all you who are weary and worn out from carrying too much. Learn to trust and rest in me and you'll recover your life."

Matthew 11:28

"I will give you back what you lost in the years when the locusts ate all your crops." Joel 2:25

Like the Fath er running out to greet his lost son...

3. JESUS CAME _____

"Anyone who connects to Christ becomes a new person. The past is forgotten, and everything becomes new. God has done it all! He sent Christ to make peace between himself and us." 2 Cor. 5:17-18

"We throw open our doors to God and discover at the same moment that he has already thrown open his door to us!"

Rom. 5:2

"Right now God is ready to welcome you. Today he is ready to save you!" 2 Cor. 6:2