



# Celebrating *Christmas* with Friends

## *Lesson #1: Christ's Birth and Kingdom Foretold*



**Scripture Reading:** Isaiah 9:2-7, "The people who walk in darkness will see a great light; those who live in a dark land, the light will shine on them. You shall multiply the nation, You shall increase their gladness; they will be glad in Your presence as with the gladness of harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil. For You shall break the yoke of their burden and the staff on their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, as at the battle of Midian. For every boot of the booted warrior in the battle tumult, and cloak rolled in blood, will be for burning, fuel for the fire. For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this..."



### **Carol: Away in the Manger**

Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.

The stars in the sky looked down where He lay  
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes;

I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky  
And stay by my side till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay,  
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray!

Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care  
And take us to heaven, to Live with Thee there.





**Lesson #2: Mary is Visited by the Angel Gabriel**



**Scripture Reading:** Luke 1:26-38, Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming in, he said to her, 'Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.' But she was very perplexed at this statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this was. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel answered and said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God. 'And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month. 'For nothing will be impossible with God.' And Mary said, 'Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word.' And the angel departed from her."

**Carol: What Child is this?**

1. What child is this who laid to rest  
On Mary's lap is sleeping  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
While shepherds watch are keeping

**Chorus:** This, this is Christ the King  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing  
Haste, haste to bring him laud  
The babe, the son of Mary

2. Why lies he in such mean estate  
Where ox and ass are feeding  
Good Christian fear, for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading

**Chorus**

3. So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh  
Come peasant king to own Him  
The King of kings, salvation brings  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him

**Chorus**



**Lesson #3: Luke Describes the Birth of Jesus**



**Scripture Reading:** Luke 2:1-7, "Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth. This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. And everyone was on his way to register for the census, each to his own city. Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child. While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn."

**Carol: It Came Upon a Midnight Clear**

1. It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth,  
To touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to men,  
From heaven's all-gracious King."  
The world in solemn stillness lay,  
To hear the angels sing.

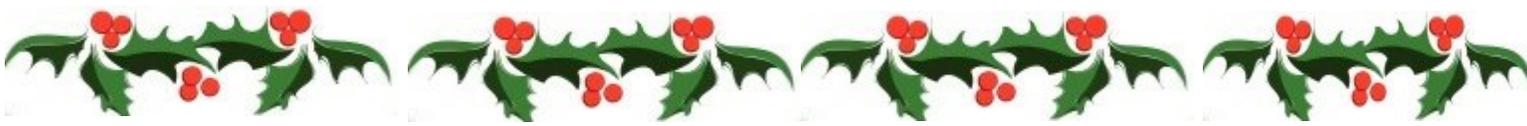
2. Still through the cloven skies they come,  
With peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heavenly music floats  
O'er all the weary world;  
Above its sad and lowly plains,  
They bend on hovering wing,  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds  
The blessed angels sing.

3. Yet with the woes of sin and strife  
The world has suffered long;  
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled  
Two thousand years of wrong;  
And man, at war with man, hears not  
The love-song which they bring;  
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,  
And hear the angels sing.

4. And ye, beneath life's crushing load,  
Whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way  
With painful steps and slow,  
Look now for glad and golden hours  
Come swiftly on the wing.  
O rest beside the weary road,  
And hear the angels sing!

5. For lo, the days are hastening on,  
By prophet bards foretold,  
When with the ever-circling years  
Comes round the age of gold  
When peace shall over all the earth  
Its ancient splendors fling,  
And the whole world give back the song  
Which now the angels sing.





**Lesson #4: The Shepherds and the Angels Hear the Good News**



**Scripture Reading:** Luke 2:8-16, "In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.' When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds began saying to one another, 'Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us.' So they came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger."



**Carol: Go Tell it on the Mountain**

1. While shepherds kept their watching  
O'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold throughout the heavens  
There shone a holy light

**Chorus:** Go, tell it on the mountain  
Over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born.

2. The shepherds feared and trembled  
When lo! above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus  
That hailed our Savior's birth;

**Chorus**

3. Down in a lowly manger  
Our humble Christ was born;  
And God sent us salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn.

**Chorus**



**Lesson #5: John Explains the Mystery of the Incarnation**



**Scripture Reading:** *John 1:1-14*, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. There came a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the Light, but he came to testify about the Light. There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

*Revelation 7:9-12*, “After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands; and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, ‘Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.’ And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, ‘Amen, blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might, be to our God forever and ever Amen.’”

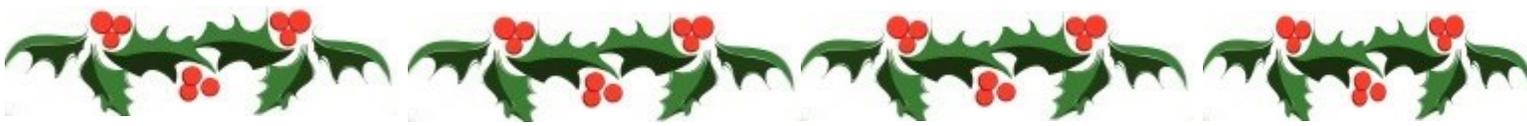
**Carol: Silent Night**

Silent night, holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright.  
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child.  
Holy infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight.  
Glories stream from heaven afar  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,  
Christ the Savior is born!  
Christ the Savior is born.

Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God love's pure light.  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face  
With dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth.  
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth





***Closing Carol:***



1. Oh, come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant!  
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him  
Born the king of angels:  
Oh, come, let us adore him,  
Oh, come, let us adore him,  
Oh, come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.

2. Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God  
In the highest:  
Oh, come, let us adore him,  
Oh, come, let us adore him,  
Oh, come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.

3. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
Born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory given!  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing!  
Oh, come, let us adore him,  
Oh, come, let us adore him,  
Oh, come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.

