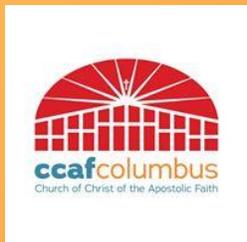


“More Than a Child”



Sunday School Lesson
Middle School & High School
December 13, 2020



MORE THAN A CHILD

The birth of Jesus Christ represents power, hope, and salvation.

MORE THAN A CHILD

Isaiah 9:6; Luke 2:4–7; John 1:14



The Nativity is Significant

The manger was a place where animals were fed, not a place to lay a newborn King.

While not the most impressive of circumstances, Jesus' birth was one of the greatest events to take place.

From humble beginnings He who would conquer sin coming into this world.

The location and circumstances did not signify the grandeur of the moment.

The birth of Jesus was the beginning of the magnificent story of humanity's redemption through the death of its Savior.



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More Than a Child



Read Isaiah 9:6 and John 1:14.

- When we think about Jesus, our first thought is not usually of Him as a child.
- Children are small, weak, needy, and fragile. When we think about God, those are not words we use to describe Him.
- What is important to see in the Christmas story is not a baby in the straw crying out as infants do, but the power that Child embodied and the hope that would come from His sacrifice.
- Babies are not threatening. Babies depend on their parents to take them where they need to go and attend to their needs, but when we understand the Baby of whom Isaiah and John were speaking, our perception changes.
- Isaiah spoke of the powerful titles laid upon Jesus.
- John spoke of the glory attributed to the Son of God.
- **Even as a child, Jesus, who would be the sacrifice for all humanity, had power and glory.** This Child we celebrate this season is the God who is: all powerful, our hope, our peace, our help, the truth, the life, holy, glorious.

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Beyond the Nativity, beyond the Child

- We must look beyond the holiday portrayal of the Nativity.
- Strip away the little animals and the joyous new parents from the cute manger scene, and we find something greater.
- Jesus' birth was the catalyst for hope in each one of us.
- Every possibility for living a real life is extinct without the birth of Jesus.
- The Nativity was simple and the Child unassuming, but what that event means for us today is beyond amazing.
- **Jesus' birth means we have access to an almighty God who cares for our every need.**



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All I Want for Christmas Is to Truly Know Jesus

One of the many things we can be grateful for this Christmas season is the opportunity to know the mighty God.

The more we know about Him and who He is, the more we experience the grandeur that Child in Bethlehem embodied.

Having an experience with Jesus helps us understand who He truly is.



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Everything Has a Beginning

The first step to experiencing the power of Jesus and living in daily relationship with Him is to make the conscious decision to know Him.

This Christmas when we see a Nativity scene, let it remind us we need to know who Jesus really is—the mighty God who came down to earth and dwelt among us to save us from our sins.

Jesus died for our sins and gives us hope.



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Jesus is Neither Frail nor Weak

The problem with Nativity portrayals is they are cute and comfortable.

Seeing the Child lying there is misleading as to His power to work for good in each one of us.

Many people never move past the Nativity.

We must realize God has the power to overcome our situations and impact our lives.

- He is neither frail nor weak.

Jesus, who was born and laid in the manger, is the same powerful God who is here for you today.

- His promises are still true.
- His love is still eternal.
- His power is still sufficient.



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Know God for Yourself

- This generation's understanding of who God is seems fractured.
- We are led to believe:
 - There is no God.
 - You are God.
 - God only wants you to do "good things" and is not concerned with how you live your life.
 - There are many gods and each one has something good to offer.
- During this Christmas season, be challenged to really know God and what He can do in your life.
- Look past the manger and the crying Child.
- Look past the shepherds and wise men.
- Look past your preconceived notions of God and religion.
- Look past your previous experiences, failures, and success.
- **Know Him as God who sees you right where you are and has the power to change everything.**



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Discussion

- If you could sum up your earliest Christmas memory in two words, what would those words be?
- Describe your favorite Christmas.
- What was your favorite Christmas gift?
- Do you think your memories from past Christmases impact your expectations for the Christmas season now?
- What do you find most significant about Jesus' birth?



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More Than a Child

The story of Jesus' birth really is one of the strangest stories in a book full of strange stories—the God who created Heaven and Earth came down in human form. Not only did He come in human form, but He chose to come quietly, in a sleepy little town, and He was laid in a decrepit little manger. Without the angels declaring His coming to the shepherds, no one would have even noticed that night. Yet, as small and fragile as that beginning may seem, that tiny Baby possessed all power, honor, glory, and dominion.

During the Christmas season, we see many portraits of helpless baby, but He is not helpless. He has risen in all strength and power. One day every knee will bow, and every tongue will confess that He, that same Child, is God. Instead of waiting until then, lets make that proclamation now.

If you know little about God or your understanding of Him has been shaped by popular culture, be challenged to take time this week to learn more about God through reading one of the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John).

Take time this week to pray God would help you know and understand Him more. Share what you have discovered with a friend or family member.

We can all agreed; the birth of Jesus Christ represents power, ,hope, and salvation.



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Scriptures

John 2:4-7

⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

⁵To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

⁶And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

⁷And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Isaiah 9:6

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

John 1:14

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

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