

"MIRACLES IN OUR MIDST"



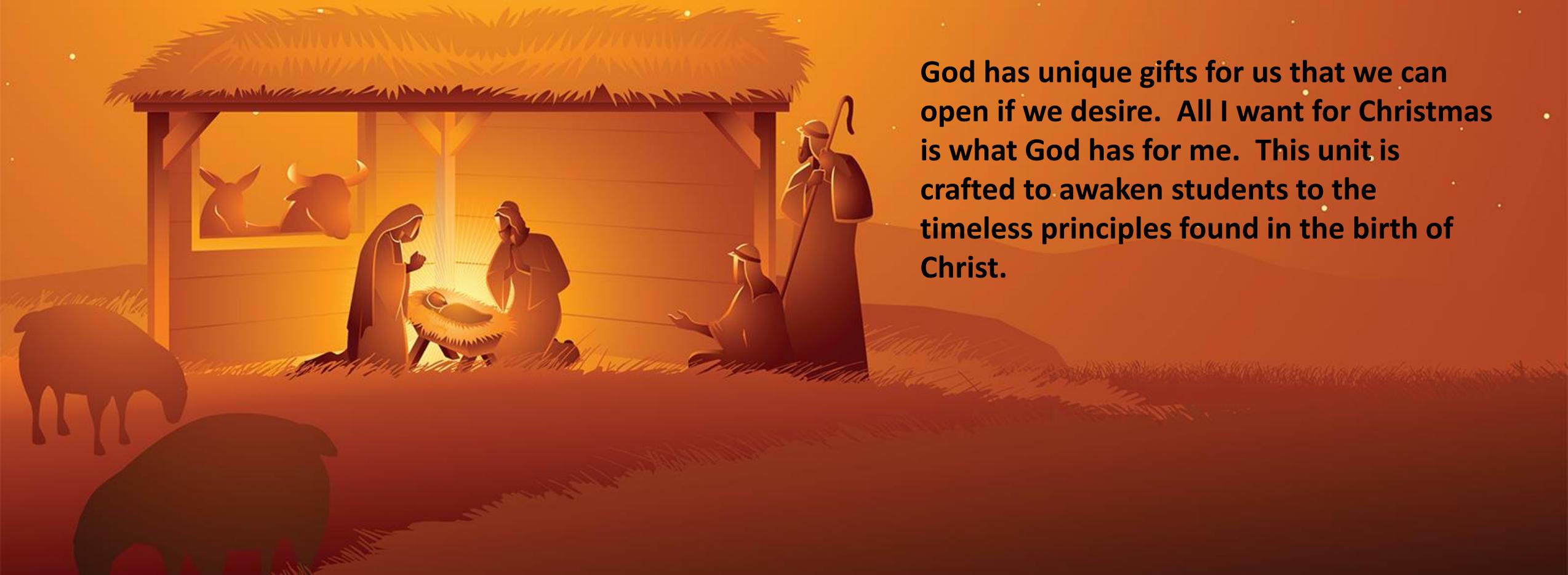
***Sunday School Lesson
Middle School & High School
December 6, 2020***



MIRACLES IN OUR MIDST

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS

God has unique gifts for us that we can open if we desire. All I want for Christmas is what God has for me. This unit is crafted to awaken students to the timeless principles found in the birth of Christ.



MIRACLES IN OUR MIDST



***God is working miracles in our midst,
even when we cannot see them.***

Biblical Passages

Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:5-6; Luke 2:15-17; 12:7



MIRACLES IN OUR MIDST



A Big God

We serve a big God. Looking at the vastness of His creation can be mesmerizing. With just a few words, God crafted, designed, and implemented such a beautiful creation.

In contrast to the vastness of His creation, God also cares about the details.

Whether our decisions are major or minute, God cares.

Read Micah 5:2.

God gave a promise in Micah. The promise stated the Messiah would come from Bethlehem. This passage was very familiar to the Jews.

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Expecting the Messiah

The Jews were expecting the Messiah. But their idea of the Messiah was completely different than what God had in mind. The Jews missed the details. The Jews were looking for the promised deliverer of the Jewish nation, prophesied in the Old Testament. In their minds the Messiah would be a conquering king who would defeat their enemies.

The Jews thought this leader would take them to the top of the world.

Read Matthew 2:5–6.

- The Jews thought they would be powerful and important.
- They thought they would finally be respected among nations.
- But they did not understand the Word of God.
- Paul reminded us of this in II Timothy 2:15.

God's ways are not our ways. **God has His own unique plan that does not conform to our agenda.** In the birth of Jesus, getting the details right was so important that God had Joseph and Mary travel seventy miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem to fulfill the words spoken in Micah. Every detail is important to God, and He cares about the details in your life.

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Proximity Does Not Guarantee Miracles

In Luke 2:15–17 we find the setting for the miracle.

Where were the residents of Bethlehem?

- The Bible does not record anyone from the city of Bethlehem coming to worship, bring gifts, or visit the newborn King.
- This was one of the greatest miracles in the Bible, and tragically those people who were in close proximity had no idea what God was doing in their own backyard.

There will always be people who are oblivious to the miraculous, regardless of proximity.

Our prayer should be, “Lord, make us aware when You are doing the miraculous in our midst.”

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All I want for Christmas Is to Experience the Miraculous

- Just like with the Israelites, God sees our need of Him and is no doubt working miracles in our lives when we do not even know it.
- Many times, we ask God to work a miracle in a specific situation.
- God, I need a miracle in my family, in my relationships, for my friends, at school.
- We may even tell Him the best way to provide the needed miracle.
- We fail to remember God does not always do things how we think or expect them to be done.
- Do not forget God is a big God, and **since God is so big, He can see outcomes better than we can.**

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God Cares about the Details

Valuing the Word of God must be a high priority in our lives.

Understanding that the Word of God will guide us through biblical principles and landmarks will keep us from getting detoured and distracted.

Have you ever heard someone misquote the Bible with something that is not even in there? For example, consider the statement: “Cleanliness is next to godliness.”

But Luke 12:7 does say, “Even the very hairs of your head are all numbered,” showing just how much God cares about the details of our lives.

Nothing in our lives is too small for God to be concerned with; He is interested in the details.

DETAILS

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Miracles Among Us

Many times, God is doing big things close to us, but because we are not sensitive or spiritually in tune, we completely miss being part of something amazing.

These miracles can be in our own lives or in the lives of those around us. Could it be we are similar to the oblivious citizens of Bethlehem?

What miracles could be happening all around us?

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Faith In Action

The shepherds in Luke 2 are a great example of faith in action. Their action should inspire us to be a part of God's plan.

When God speaks to us about an action to take, many times we are hesitant.
Why do you think we may hesitate?

Could it be we fear the unknown and therefore neglect being part of the miracle?

Could it be we delegate the responsibility to "somebody else"?

Trusting in God may be challenging in the moment, but we must hold on to faith that God is in control and wants to use us.

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Working Miracles in Us and through Us

No doubt all of us need God to work miracles in our lives, and we often pray to that end.

At other times God wants to work a miracle through us to benefit someone else.

How often are we in a place to be a component in one of God's miracles?

Every miracle that happens in our lives is not about us; sometimes God is positioning us so He can work through us to do the miraculous for others.

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Miracles



When we think of miracles, our minds automatically go to big things. We think about stories in Bible like God parting the Red Sea or Jesus opening blinded eyes. Certainly, these are notable miracles, but God also does tons of small miracles in our lives that tally up to make a big impact. Think about the time your parent slammed on the brakes and the car stopped just before hitting someone or the time you were overcome with fear and a quick prayer settled you down. God's power is present all around us, and the Christmas season is a beautiful reminder of that. After all, who expected the Savior of the world to be born in a barn? If our eyes and hearts are open, we will begin to see Him working all around us.

When we face challenging situations or we don't see God moving in the way we think He should, we can feel alone and isolated. Still, He is moving and working all around us. We have experienced His help before, and we will again.

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Discussion

- What is your favorite miracle in the Bible? Why is it your favorite?
- Do miracles still happen today? Why or Why not?
- Have you ever experienced a miracle? If so, what was it?
- Why do you think the majority of Israel did not recognize Jesus as the Messiah?
- Has God ever worked in a way that was different than you expected? If so, what did you learn from this experience?
- Has God ever done something small in your life that had a big impact? What was it?
- What miracles do you need God to work for you?

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Scriptures

Micah 5:2

² But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

Matthew 2:5-6

⁵ And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet,

⁶ And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

Luke 2:15; 12:7

¹⁵ And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

¹⁶ And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

¹⁷ And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

¹⁵⁷ But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows.



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