

Get Ready!

New Beginning
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**Text**

Luke 2:1-18; John 1:1-14

Key Quest Verse

“Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:11).

Bible Background

The God we worship is infinitely capable as author of life, sustainer of all creation, and designer of the plan for all time. He had everything orchestrated before the creation of the first thing! He knew in advance all that would happen and planned accordingly. The most incredible aspect of God’s plan is the gift of His Son, Jesus. Before God spoke the words “let there be,” God knew that mankind would sin and be in need of a savior. He formulated a plan (Logos – John 1) that became flesh (vs. 14) in the life of Jesus. On account of (or because of) Jesus, all things could be created (Colossians 1).

It is interesting to examine the birth of Jesus from the viewpoint of God planning for it all to happen. There are numerous Old Testament accounts prophesying the birth of Christ. Many of them are very specific, defining the place, the family line, and the virgin birth. The selection of parents for Jesus, the requirement of a census that brought them to Bethlehem, and the placement of the magnificent star in the heavens to lead the Magi, are all further evidence of our God controlling everything and perfectly presenting His plan of redemption to His people. All creation should marvel at His awesome works!

Get Ready!**Lesson Quest**

What I want my students to:

Know: The birth of Jesus is more than a historical event; it is where we find our identity.

Feel: A connectedness of all aspects of their lives to Jesus.

Do: Include Jesus in every decision they make and in every way they behave.

Leader's Devotion

My wife is amazing. She is able to pinpoint milestones in our married life without appearing to have to give it a second thought. She has these reference points that I don't ever recall even happening. Ask her when my daughter broke her arm, and she'll tell you it happened on August 16th, because the man that sprays our house for pests always comes the second Tuesday of every month, and he had just been there the day before the accident happened, and she remembers we reached a record high temperature that month so it had to have been August 16!

But, this is the way human beings exist. We remember things according to beginnings and endings: birthdays and funerals, old houses and new houses, kindergarten and high school graduation, etc. It makes it all the more amazing when you consider that for God, there is no beginning or end; He has always been and will always be. Our lives are finite, however. We began with the day of our births and wonder how many years/days we have left until we breathe our last.

With this mindset, we may be tempted to look at Christmas only as the celebration of Jesus' birth and the opening of presents. Christmas remembers the mystery of a virgin's conception, the humble circumstances surrounding our savior's birth, the angelic proclamation to the lowly shepherds and ends with the visit of the far-traveling Magi. But, as a pastor friend of mine was fond of saying, "It is the end, the **beginning** end!" Christmas shouldn't just be a celebration of the birth of Jesus, but also a celebration of the beginning it signifies for all those who believe and put their trust in Him. Jesus didn't come into the world as an eternal infant: He grew, played, cried, made friends, taught, chastised his pupils, was tested, laughed, offered Himself as a sacrifice to pay the penalty for our sins, was raised from the dead and lives an immortal life at God's right hand. The story of Christmas doesn't end with His birth; it only begins there. In the same way, our life in Christ doesn't end with our baptism (birth into God's family). It is our beginning; the beginning of a wonderful, exciting new life that we share with Jesus walking at our side until that day when all God's children are finally, eternally reunited in God's perfect kingdom on a new earth!

Get Set!**Option A**

Materials: Caroling Book (song book with Christmas songs), photocopies of “Christ in the Carols” Worksheet for each student, blackboard

Procedure: This time of year we hear a lot of Christmas songs. These songs are on the radio, in Christmas specials on television, and even played by marching bands in Christmas parades. What are some of the Christmas songs that come to mind? Write several songs on the board. Many of these songs contain the message of Christ’s birth. Some tell the story of His life. Others share the message of who He is. For instance, “Silent Night! Holy Night!” tells us that Jesus is the Son of God, and that He is Lord. Another Christmas song is “Angels From the Realms of Glory.” This song tells the story of Jesus’ birth and those who realized that He was to be worshipped as King. It also tells us that we are waiting for His Second coming to Worship Him at that time. This year as you hear and sing the Christmas songs think about the message that is in them.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Option B

Materials: Candles (preferably the driplless kind), candleholders, matches or a lighter

Procedure: Hand out one candle and one candleholder to each student as they arrive and ask them to all take a seat on the floor and sit quietly. Light your own candle or a larger candle on a table. Say, **you all know this candle is lit because you watched me light it and you can see the flame, but if we turn out the lights we’ll be able to see the flame better.** Turn out the lights. Instruct one student to light his/her candle from yours and then to light the person’s next to them and so on until everyone’s candle is lit. **If, instead of a candle, I handed each of you an apple and a knife and asked you to cut off a piece for yourself and then hand the apple to the next person to do the same, eventually the apple would be gone and there might not be enough for everyone. Also, once you’ve cut off a piece and passed it on, you no longer have the whole apple. You have just a portion of it and there is less and less of the apple. The same isn’t true of the light, is it? As each of us passed on the flame, there was plenty for everyone. And not only was there less light as we shared it, there was more! This is why Jesus was called the light. He doesn’t grow less as He is shared. There is plenty of Him to go around. The more we share Him, the more light there is.**

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY



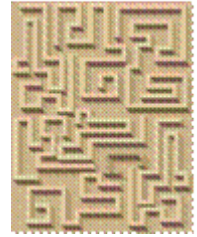
Get Set!**Bible Story**

Teacher Tip: Provide markers for students to highlight portions of the story in their Bibles

If our class were all sitting out on the grass by a street and there was a car accident and the police interviewed each of us, we might tell similar accounts of what we saw, but no two stories would be exactly the same. We each would be focusing on different aspects of the accident, might be seeing it from different angles or may not have noticed it at the same time. While none of our stories would be lies, they would be different. In the same way, the first four books of the New Testament which are called the Gospels are different accounts, from different viewpoints and different emphasis from four different students, or disciples, of Jesus about His life.

John starts off his account very differently from the other three Gospels. Instead of recording the events leading up to Jesus' birth, in a traditional storytelling manner, He copies the story of Creation (the forming of everything from nothing) found in the very first book of the Bible, Genesis. The very first words in Genesis are "In the beginning." The same words introduce John's gospel. Read John 1:1-14. There is an obvious parallel John wants us to see between the creation of the world and the birth of Jesus: there was nothing before and what came after was the beginning of everything. Without the Creation, there would be no earth, no sky, no seas, no man, no anything. The same should be understood about Jesus. Without Him, life would be nothing. While we might exist, we would not truly live, have joy, peace, experience everything God wants us to. Instead of writing about the birth of Jesus, John uses imagery. He tells us "In the beginning was the Word." The Greek word, which the Bible translators have translated as "Word," means *a thought or concept and the expression or utterance of that thought*. In very simple terms, "Word" can be "the meaning." John wants us to understand with no doubts that the meaning of everything, of everything we are, everything we strive to be, everything we yearn for, everything we need is found in Jesus. He is "the meaning" and it all started with Him and His birth, (John 1:3-5). While John the Baptist came first, he wasn't the "Word." He came first to let people know the "Word" was coming.

Again, John uses imagery in referring to Jesus as the light and the world was a dark place before Jesus came. A light (candle, flashlight, lighter, etc.) is not nearly as bright in the sunshine as it is at night or in a darkened room. It is into our darkened lives that Jesus has come to bring light so we can see. However, not everyone accepted Jesus and the light He brought, and He was killed. But, it would take more than death to shut out the light. In John 1:14, God's meaning for us became flesh in the person of Jesus Christ and overcame death to let us see His glory, find truth and grace. Everything we are, everything we do, decisions we make, friends we choose and what we decide to do with our lives goes back to whether or not Jesus is in our heart. Just as before Creation, there was nothing, each of us is a blank page that God can write on and show His glory through our lives, if we accept Jesus as our Lord. He came to change the world, but the world starts with each of us. If we are willing, He will use us, live in us, to reach out to others.

Go!**Blind Faith****GAME**

Materials: One or two blindfolds

Quest Connection

Do you ever feel as if your life is like walking through a maze? There are a lot of people telling us what to do and some people trying to get us to do something we don't want to do – or maybe something that may even be harmful to us. When we have these times of confusion, it's important to focus on the voice of God and tune out the words of the world. As the Israelites began to see the promises unfold in the birth of John the Baptist, they gradually were able to unravel the mystery of what God had in store for them with the birth of Jesus. Sometimes we may wonder what purpose God has for our lives, and we may feel like we're lost in some kind of maze – but, one thing we can be sure of is that God is in control and He'll be able to help us get out of any mess we might get ourselves into!

Procedure: Prior to this activity, set up a simple obstacle course using items in your room or somewhere around the church. Group students in pairs and blindfold one person in that pair. The blindfolded person will take a turn going through the maze, guided by the voice of his partner, who will be standing at the starting point. Other students in the room will call out instructions of their own (some will be accurate and others misleading) as the person makes his way through the maze. The blindfolded person will have to tune out those voices and focus in only on the voice of his partner. Continue by letting each student have a turn.

Close

Undoubtedly, most of your students may feel that some things in their lives are painful or confusing to them. They may not know their place in the church or understand the reassurances of the promises of God's grace. **Ask for students to think of things in their lives that they feel are out of control** (give them a minute to think about it, but don't have them answer out loud). **God can be the one in control of our lives, He can lead us, if we let Him. He has a plan for our lives from the beginning, and the gift of Jesus is just as much for us today as for the Israelites 2,000 years ago. By asking Jesus into our lives to be our personal savior, we can be guided through the tangles of daily problems by having the strength and the resources to deal with them.**

Prayer: Dear God, help us focus on Your guidance. Help us to follow Your instructions in Your Word, the Bible. Help us feel the reassurance of the gift of Your son, Jesus. In His name, amen.

Go!**Twelve Days of Christmas****MUSIC**

Materials: A photocopy of the resource page, “Twelve Days of Christmas” for each student, a tape or CD of the song “The Twelve days of Christmas” could be played for the students after the discussion

Quest Connection

People often think the song “The Twelve Days of Christmas” is about the 12 days preceding Christmas. Actually, this song has a hidden meaning. From 1558 until 1829 people in England were not allowed to practice their faith openly. During this era someone wrote “The Twelve Days of Christmas” as a way of expressing their faith in public without fear of persecution. The song has the surface meaning of a true love giving gifts to the singer of the song, but it also has another hidden meaning. The twelve gifts given are symbols of the songwriters’ beliefs.

Procedure: Pass out Twelve Days of Christmas Worksheet and review with the students. The material that follows also appears on the worksheet. **As you see, each gift was used by the songwriter to express his or her personal beliefs. Many objects around us during this time of year are often seen as symbols. These items represent some part of our Christian faith. The candy cane can be used as a way to remember the attributes of Christ, the evergreen used in decorations symbolizes eternal life, candles represent Jesus being the Light of the World, gift giving symbolizes the gifts given by the Magi, etc.**

Close

Symbols are something that stands for something else. Symbols of our Christian beliefs are all around us at this time of year. We can use them to help us remember the true meaning of Christmas. We can use symbols throughout the year to remind us to thank God for His son Jesus Christ.

Go!**Unwrapped Relay****GAME**

Materials: Bible verse, Quest Verse envelopes, 10 gift bows, stop watch (or watch with second hand to time the students), table or floor space to combine the Quest Verse pieces

Quest Connection

We have read our Quest Verse during our lesson today. Now we are going to see how well you heard the verse that was read in a game called Unwrapped Relay. I need two students to be wrappers and the rest will be gift receivers.

Procedure: Before class, divide the Key Quest Verse into 10 parts. There are 18 words in the memory verse and the reference. The NIV version is, “Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:11). You can put two words on each piece of paper and the reference on one piece. Put the paper into envelopes and seal.

To play: Have the two student wrappers move to one side of the room and the rest of the students will be gift receivers, who will sit on chairs on the other side of the room. The wrappers will put a gift bow on each envelope. They must then deliver the envelope to one of the gift receivers who is sitting in a chair. When a receiver gets the envelope, he opens it and reads it. Then, he has to place it in the proper place in the memory verse on the table or floor by the teacher. As each receiver gets an envelope to add to the Quest Verse, they may rearrange the paper pieces to make the verse read correctly. Time the players to see how long it takes your students to combine the correct Quest Verse.

Close

Now that our Quest Verse has been put together correctly, let’s say it. “Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:11). God’s Word the Bible is a wonderful gift. It tells us about the birth and life of Jesus. It also gives us the promise that Jesus will come back again. We look forward to the day when we will see our Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord.

Go!**From Promise to Fulfillment****BIBLE SKILLS**

Materials: Copies of the worksheets “From Promise to Fulfillment” (half of the students will receive the New Testament copies and half will receive the Old Testament copies), pencils, Bibles

Quest Connection

These are just a few of the prophecies contained in the Bible about the life of Jesus. Many more can be found about His death and resurrection. There are others about future events, like Christ’s return and God bringing together His believers into an everlasting kingdom. Just as we can see many prophecies have already come true, we can be sure that the promises that affect our future in the kingdom will also come true when God says the time is right.

Procedure: Have the students work in pairs to look up the verses. Have one look up the Old Testament promise while the other looks up the New Testament fulfillment, then have them compare the answers and what the promise was referring to.

Answers to Worksheets

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 1. Elijah | Refers to the one who would announce Jesus’ coming – John |
| 2. Virgin | Refers to Jesus’ mother – Mary |
| 3. Bethlehem | Refers to Jesus’ birthplace |
| 4. Gold and Incense | Refers to gifts brought to the baby Jesus by the Magi |
| 5. Egypt | Refers to Joseph and Mary escaping to Egypt with the baby Jesus |
| 6. My Son | Refers to Jesus being called the Son of God |

Since a couple of these were not specifically mentioned in today’s story, this would be a good time to give a quick summary of the Magi coming to visit Jesus (Matthew 2:1-12) and then the directions that God gave Joseph to take Jesus to Egypt (Matthew 2:13-15). Encourage the students to study their Bibles and try to find more about the promises that God has made to them.

Close

Prayer: **Dear Father, thank You for keeping Your promises and being faithful to us. Thank You for the prophecies that You give us. We pray that those will encourage us to remain faithful to You until we enter Your wonderful Kingdom someday. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

Go!**Candy Cane****FOOD**

Materials: 1 large candy cane, small candy canes (1 for each pupil). Make sure you purchase the kind with a large red stripe and small red stripes.

Quest Connection

An ingenious, creative candy maker, wishing to make a candy that would be symbolic of Christmas, came up with the idea of the ever popular “Christmas candy cane.”

Procedure: Hand out small candy canes to students and read the following:

The candy is extremely hard and white in color. The white is symbolic of the virgin birth and the sinless nature of Jesus. The hard texture represents the solid rock foundation on which the church was built.

The shape of the candy was purposely made in the form of a “J,” representing the precious name of Jesus. It also serves as a reminder of the shepherds’ hook or staff of the “Good Shepherd.” Jesus is our Good Shepherd (John 10:11).

The pure white was by design, stained with one large and three small red stripes. The large stripe represents the blood shed by Christ on the cross. The small stripes represent the scourging Jesus received before His crucifixion (Isaiah 53:5 “with his stripes we are healed,” KJV).

Unfortunately, over a period of time, the Christmas candy became known as simply a candy cane. But, the meaning is still there for those who follow the teachings of Christ.

Close

When you hang your candy canes on trees now, hang them upside down. Nestle them in the branches or hang them with a ribbon. When you see the “J” on the tree, you will be reminded of Jesus. This year we will remember that candy makers years ago who wanted to let others know about Jesus.

Go!

Day After Christmas**DRAMA**

Materials: A copy of Worksheet entitled “An After Christmas Carol” written by Dorothy Siple (Garden Park Church of God) for each student

Quest Connection

We are going to each take a turn reading a stanza from this poem. I want you to each think about what the poem is saying and give us your feelings about it after we have read it.

Procedure: Read poem with the students.

Close

What is the message that this poem is giving us? Would you like to recite this poem for a group sometime during the Christmas season? If your class would like to recite the poem, maybe they could perform it for another class. Ask permission from the Worship Team leaders for a time during the services that the students could recite the poem for the congregation.

Go!**It's Christmas, Charlie Brown!****VIDEO**

Materials: Video “A Charlie Brown Christmas” written by Charles Schulz, Untied Feature Syndicate, Inc.

Preparation: Decide what portion of the video you will have time to view. The video has a 25 minute running time. If you only want to view the portion with Linus explaining the meaning of Christmas, it is 20 minutes into the video and 5 minutes until the end.

Quest Connection

The Peanuts gang is getting ready for Christmas. Snoopy has decorated his doghouse with ornaments and lights. The rest of the kids are preparing for the school play and everyone's in a great mood, except for Charlie Brown. He is wondering whether Christmas has become too commercial. Charlie Brown and his friends will discover from Linus the true meaning of Christmas.

Procedure: View the amount of video that you want.

Close

Just as Linus knew the true meaning of Christmas, we need to remind ourselves, as well. The presents should not be the things on which we focus our attention. We should focus on the gift of our Savior Jesus. Let's say our Quest Verse together.

“Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:11).

Go!**Stained Glass Cookies****FOOD**

Materials: Ingredients, colored hard candies, cookie sheets

Quest Connection

Our stained glass cookies remind us of all the joys we share at our church during the Christmas season. We will remember the (name some of the activities your church is doing this year—for instance, a Christmas Program or Caroling trip) **for a long time.** Tell of a fond memory that you have from a church Christmas activity. **It is a wonderful opportunity to worship together during this special time of the year. Let's make our time with God a priority even during this busy time of the year.**

Procedure: Recipe: 1 cup softened butter, 3/4 cup sugar, 1 large egg, 1 teaspoon vanilla extract, 2 3/4 cup all-purpose flour, 1 teaspoon baking soda, 1 teaspoon cream of tartar

In a large bowl, cream the butter and sugar until fluffy. Add the egg and beat well, mix in the vanilla. In a separate bowl, combine flour, soda and cream of tartar. Add the flour mixture to the butter mixture, one third at a time, until thoroughly combined. Divide the dough into two equal portions and flatten each into a disk. Cover each disk in plastic wrap and refrigerate for 2 to 3 hours, or until the dough is firm enough to work with. If it becomes too firm, soften at room temperature for about 5 minutes. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. On a lightly floured board, roll out the dough until it is about 1/4 inch thick. Cut out cookies with cutters or by hand. Sort the hard candies by color. Place each batch in a heavy duty plastic bag. Crush the candies with a mallet and set aside. Cover a baking sheet with foil. Roll out the dough and cut out window shaped cookies. Place the cookies on the baking sheet and fill the cutout holes with the crushed candy so it is even with the cookies' surface. Do not overfill. Bake the cookies at 350 degrees for 10-15 minutes. When they are cool, carefully remove them from the foil. Makes about 3 dozen depending on their size.

Note: The cookies could also be cut out or shaped into stars, angels, shepherds hooks, or any other shapes that depict the Christmas story.

Close

As we enjoy the sweetness of the cookies, remember that the time we spend with God. We should spend time with Him in prayer, reading His word, and thanking Him for the gift of His son.

Go!

Colors of Christ**DRAMA**

Materials: Photocopies of the “Colored Candles” worksheet for students, 7 candles in colors of blue, white, green, red, purple, gold and cream, a lighter or matches

Quest Connection

I would like each of you to participate in a candle light service. The colors of these candles represent something about Christ and the example that He gave us to follow.

Procedure: Assign students a reading or the lighting of a candle before you begin. Try to give each student that wants to, the opportunity to read or light the candles. The student to light a candle can use a lighter and other candles can be lit from the burning candles. Follow the “Lighting of the Candles” by the order on the worksheet. **These candles give a beautiful glow. Candles are a part of our Christmas tradition. When we see candles this year we want to remember that Christ said He is the light of the world. He also said that we were to be the light of the world, too. How can we be the light of the world and show His light to others? He explains this to us in Matthew 5:16. It states, “In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.” Let’s always think of ways in which we can help others and work hard at doing “good deeds” for God’s glory.**

Note: This is a wonderful opportunity to have the youth lead a candlelight service.

Close

During the Christmas season, we see people collecting money, toys, canned goods and other things for those around us who are less fortunate. These are wonderful ways to show our compassion for others. We want to make a point of doing “good deeds” like this not only at Christmas, but throughout the year. What a great feeling to know that others are praising our Father in heaven because of our acts of kindness.

Go!



His Name Is Called

BIBLE SKILLS

Materials: Bibles, blackboard to record answers

Quest Connection

The name Jesus Christ has special meaning. Jesus is the Greek form of the Hebrew name Joshua. The meaning of Joshua is the Lord saves. Christ is the Greek form of the Hebrew word Messiah. Both of these mean the Anointed One. When a king was chosen in Bible times, his head was anointed with oil. This name signifies that God has chosen Jesus Christ. The scriptures are full of names and attributes that describe Jesus.

Procedure: Everyone use your Bibles to turn to a few of these passages that tell us more about Jesus. We will write them on the board. Have the students look up the following verses and call out the names and attributes given for Jesus.

| | | | |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Hebrews 7:26 | Matthew 12:18 | Matthew 14:33 | Matthew 19:28 |
| John 8:12 | Rev. 5:5 | John 1:36 | John 1:41 |
| Rev. 17:14 | | | |

Suggested Answers might be:

| | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|---------------|------------------------|
| Holy | Blameless | Pure | Set apart from sinners |
| Priest | servant | Son of God | Son of Man |
| Light of the World | Lion of the tribe of Judah | | Root of David |
| Lamb of God | Messiah (Christ) | King of kings | Lord of Lords |

These are only a few of the names and attributes of Jesus. He is so wonderful. Take time this Christmas season to think and read about Jesus. Read about what He did on the earth in one of the first four books of the New Testament. Read about His second coming in Matthew 25:31. He lived His life to serve God and others and we should follow His example. Someday we will be rewarded by Him in God’s Kingdom.

Close

We are so blessed to have a Savior who loves us. He wants us to follow Him and accept Him as our Lord. Let’s recite our Quest Verse that tells the good news of the arrival of our Lord Jesus Christ. “Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:11)

Resource Page

Silent Night! Holy 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 steam from heaven afar,
Heav’nly 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 the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.**

Angels From the Realms of Glory

**Angels, from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o’er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation’s story, Now proclaim Messiah’s birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King!**

**Shepherds, in the fields abiding, Watching o’er your flocks by night,
Christ with man is now residing, Yonder shines the infant Light:
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King!**

**Sages, leave your contemplations, Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations, Ye have seen His natal star:
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ the newborn King!**

**Saints, before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending, In His temple shall appear:
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ the newborn King!**



The Twelve Days of Christmas

These are the hidden meanings of the gifts given.

1. The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ.
2. The two turtledoves are the Old and New Testaments.
3. Three French hens stand for faith, hope and love.
4. The four calling birds are the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John).
5. The five gold rings recall the torah (Law) the first five books of the Old Testament.
6. The six geese a-laying stand for the six days of creation.
7. Seven swans a-swimming represent the sevenfold gifts of the Spirit.
8. The eight maids a-milking are the eight beatitudes (Matthew 5).
9. Nine ladies dancing are the nine fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5).
10. The ten lords a-leaping are the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20).
11. Eleven pipers piping stand for the eleven faithful disciples.
12. Twelve drummers drumming symbolize the 12 points of belief in the Apostles Creed.

As you see, each gift was used by the songwriter to express his or her personal beliefs. Many objects around us during this time of year are often seen as symbols. These items represent some part of our Christian faith. The candy cane can be used as a way to remember the attributes of Christ, the evergreen used in decorations symbolizes eternal life, candles represent Jesus being the Light of the World, gift giving symbolizes the gifts given by the Magi, etc. Symbols are good ways to help us remember the true meaning of Christmas. Christmas is celebrating God's gift of His son Jesus Christ who is our Saviour and Lord.

Let's sing the final verse of "The Twelve Days of Christmas"

On the twelfth day of Christmas my true love sent to me: 12 Drummers Drumming, Eleven Pipers Piping, Ten Lords a-Leaping, Nine Ladies Dancing, Eight Maids a-Milking, Seven Swans a-Swimming, Six Geese a-Laying, Five Golden Rings, Four Calling Birds, Three French Hens, Two Turtle Doves, and a Partridge in a Pear Tree.

Music for the song The Twelve Days of Christmas is available on many Christmas CDs and tapes. Music for this song can be accessed for the computer at www.12days.com/library/carols/12daysofxmas.htm.

From Promise To Fulfillment

An Old Testament Promise

Look up the following Old Testament Promises and fill in the blanks. Compare your answers with your classmate's New Testament Fulfillment worksheet.

See, I will send you the prophet _____ before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes (Malachi 4:5).

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: the _____ will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14).

But you, _____ Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel (Micah 5:2).

And all from Sheba will come, bearing _____ and _____ and proclaiming the praise of the Lord (Isaiah 60:6b).

I loved him, and out of _____ I called my son (Hosea 11:1b).

I will proclaim the decree of the Lord: He said to me, "You are _____ today I have become your Father" (Psalm 2:7).

From Promise To Fulfillment

A New Testament Fulfillment

Look up the following New Testament Fulfillments and fill in the blanks. Compare your answers with your classmate's Old Testament Promise worksheet.

And if you are willing to accept it, he (John) is the _____ who was to come. (Matthew 11:14).

The _____ name was Mary (Luke 1:27b).

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to _____, the town of David. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord (Luke 2:4, 11).

Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of _____ and of _____ and of myrrh (Matthew 2:11b).

So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for _____ (Matthew 2:14).

And a voice from heaven said, "This is _____, whom I love; with him I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17).

Resource Page

An After Christmas Carol by Dorothy Siple

'Twas the day after Christmas
And all through the house
Not a creature was stirring,
Not even a mouse.

The stockings that hung
By the chimney with care,
Are thrown in the corner
Or flung on a chair.

While the tree which so splendidly
Glowed with its lighting
Is dark and deserted . . .
No longer exciting.

The great Christmas spirit,
So recently bright,
Has flickered its last
And gone out with the night.

And soon all the ornaments and trimmings
And music boxes with carols to play
Will be stored in the attic
'Til next Christmas Day.

And in many a home
Could this happen to you?
The Lord Jesus Christ
Will be stored away, too.

But the real Christmas story
Has only begun,
With the day that we honor
The birth of God's Son.

And the day after Christmas
Is only the start,
Of a year of great joy
When Christ lives in your heart.

Then serve Christ and honor Him
And you will hear
The song of the angels
Each day of the year!

The Colored Candles

Light Blue Candle: The blue candle symbolizes the water used by John the Baptist who prepared the way for Jesus. Matthew 3:13-17, “Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, ‘I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?’ Jesus replied, ‘Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.’ Then John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.’”

Light White Candle: The white candle represents the pure and sinless life that Jesus lived. In Hebrews 7:26 he describes Christ in this way, “Such a high priest meets our need – one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens.”

Light Green Candle: The green candle reminds us of the evergreen, a symbol of eternal life offered by Jesus to all those who follow Him. John 5:24, “I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.”

Light Red Candle: The red candle represents the blood that Jesus shed on the cross, so we can be forgiven of our sins. Colossians 1:20, “and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.”

Light Purple Candle: The color purple symbolizes royalty. This candle reminds us that Jesus is King of Kings, and He will rule over the earth. Revelation 17:14, “They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings – and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers.” Isaiah 9:7, “Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.” Revelation 11:15, “The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: ‘The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever.’”

Light Gold Candle: The gold represents the streets of gold in the New Jerusalem in God’s coming Kingdom. Revelation 21:18, 21, “The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass. The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of pure gold, like transparent glass.”

Light Cream Candle: The cream candle represents us; we need to be the light of the World just as Jesus commanded us to be. Matthew 5:14, “You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden.”