

blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession who are zealous for good works. *Titus 2:11-14*

- a. In the book of Titus, Paul proclaims we have salvation through the grace of God. Grace is undeserved kindness. When this type of kindness is shown to us, tell how we will want to live.
- b. God demands our entire being. Why are we afraid to completely give our lives to God as His possession?
- c. What are Paul's words for how we will want to act? What does it mean to be "zealous?"
4. Read Luke 2 from the shepherd's point of view. How did they react to the joyous news of the angels? How do you think it altered their lives? Do you think they were concerned with how others viewed their new enthusiasm?
5. Read Luke 2 from Mary's point of view. How does she respond to the events surrounding Jesus birth? Think of Mary's joy at being the mother of the Savior of the world. Now think of her sorrow and ultimate joy as she witnessed His death and resurrection.
6. David in Psalm 96 tells of his response to God's gift of salvation. What does he tell us to do? How does he describe the power of God? ~ *Oh sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth! 2 Sing to the Lord, bless His name; tell of His salvation from day to day. 3 Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the peoples! 4 For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods. 5 For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the Lord made the heavens. 6 Splendor and majesty are before Him; strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.* *Psalm 96:1-6* (Also read: *Romans 1:16, Matthew 28:18-20*)

The Birth of Jesus

Isaiah 9:2-6 - To Us a Child is Born

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

3 You have multiplied the nation; You have increased its joy; they rejoice before You as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. 4 For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, You have broken as on the day of Midian. 5 For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.

6 For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

(Also read: *John 1:14*)



**A Savior has been born to you;
He is Christ the Lord. *Luke 2:11***

Luke 2:1-20 - The Birth of Jesus

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

6 And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. 10 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!"

15 When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." 16 And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

17 And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. 18 And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.

20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. (Read also: Matthew 1:18-24)

A Closer Look: The Birth of Jesus - Our Response

Because of Jesus birth, death, and resurrection, we are free from sin's punishment. We are free to thank and praise Him with our whole being.

1. Isaiah foretold the birth of Jesus and compared His earthly mission to the disobedience of God's people and their release from slavery in Babylon. (Read the verses from Isaiah 9:2-6.)
 - a. Describe the physical oppression that would be felt by his people.
 - b. From what kind of slavery and oppression does Jesus set His people free? Isaiah says there will be great joy when this Child comes. Read verse 2 and 6. How does he describe Jesus?
 - c. Isaiah wrote over 700 years before the birth of Jesus Christ. Tell how Isaiah's words of prophecy helped the people of that day stay focused on the coming of the Savior.
2. Read Paul's words in Romans 6. ~ *But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:22-23*
 - a. What are the consequences of our sin?
 - b. What does it mean to become a slave to our loving God? If we release our will to God, what fruit will we receive? (Note: Sanctification means to be made holy)
 - c. What is the cost of sin? What is the cost of our salvation?
3. Through the law, we see our sin and our need for a Savior. The law purifies us so that our hearts are receptive to God's amazing grace. ~ *For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12 training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, 13 waiting for our*