

General Church Education



Why the Lord Came on Earth (Christmas)

Luke 1:26-45, 2:1-18; Matthew 2:1-15

Lesson 32

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 4: The Lord Is the Hero

For ages 9-10

Why the Lord Came on Earth

Luke 1:26-45, 2:1-18; Matthew 2:1-15

For Parents and Teachers

The Lord God, Jehovah, was born into the world at a time when there was great darkness on earth. The power of evil had become stronger than the power of goodness, threatening the human race with damnation. People could no longer find the way to heaven. The Lord Himself took on a human mind and body from Mary, which allowed the hells to approach Him, and for Him to fight and overcome them in temptation. In conquering the hells through temptation, the Lord was able to redeem both people and angels. Through redemption, the Lord prepared the way for people to be saved. We are saved when learn what is true from the Word and do what it teaches. We must do these things as if of ourselves, but believe that they come from the Lord working with us and through us. (See *True Christian Religion* 2-3).

The Lord is a Hero. He came to fight the powers of hell, even to death. He fights for us when we turn to Him and ask for His help. Many other people in the Christmas story are heroes too. Mary, the Lord's earthly mother, willingly accepted the angel's word and consented to carry the Lord in her womb. Joseph protected Mary as she carried the Lord, and later protected the Lord when Herod threatened to kill Him. The shepherds and wise men humbly acknowledged the Lord as their King and bowed before Him. We, too, can welcome the Lord at Christmas time and protect His presence in our lives from forces of evil in and around us.

Ideas for Children

- The Lord is a Hero who came to save the world from the power of hell.
- Many heroes protected the Lord so He could grow up to save humankind.
- We can follow the Lord's loving and merciful example to become heroes ourselves.

From the Writings

"The Lord came into the world to reduce to order everything in heaven and so on earth, and He accomplished this by combats against the hells. The hells at that time were infesting every person coming into the world and departing from the world. By combats against them the Lord became the embodiment of righteousness and saved humankind, without which people could not have been saved."

Doctrine of the Lord 14

That the Lord's Human, conceived of Jehovah the Father, and born of the Virgin Mary, is the Son of God, is clear from the following passages:

The angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth....

When the angel came in unto her he said, "Rejoice highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women...." And the angel said unto her, "Fear not, Mary; for you have found favor with God. Behold, you shall conceive...and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus." See

Doctrine of the Lord 19.

Why the Lord Came on Earth

Luke 1:26-45, 2:1-18; Matthew 2:1-15

Vocabulary

humility—the quality of being modest and lowly

humble—a person who is modest and respectful

hero—someone who is courageous and does things for others, not for themselves

Christmas (Christ–mas) is the celebration of the Lord God Jesus Christ’s birth into the world in Bethlehem of Judea. Today, we will think about why the Lord came on earth.

The Lord Came to Save the World from the Power of Hell

Before the Lord’s birth people were in great darkness. They did not know how to live the kind of life that could lead them to heaven. Religious leaders had made up so many complicated rules that true ideas from the Word had become lost. Without the truth of the Word, people had no protection against evil. If the Lord had not come, hell would have become so powerful that the human race would have ended. The Lord came to earth to bring light into this great darkness. He came as a Hero to fight against the power of evil.

The Lord Was Born As a Baby

Heroes are courageous. They help others. The Christmas story has many heroes. These heroes protected the Lord from great danger from before He was born until He had grown up.



The first hero is Mary, the mother of the Lord. When an angel appeared to Mary with news that she would bear a child, the Son of the Highest, Mary said, “Behold the maidservant of the Lord. Let it be to me according to your word.” Mary humbly accepted that she would carry the baby Lord and bring Him into the world. Joseph, her betrothed husband, took care to protect Mary and the special baby she carried. They were both heroes.

Read Luke 1:26-38.

Elizabeth and Mary

While Mary was with child she visited her cousin, Elizabeth. Elizabeth welcomed Mary, saying, “But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?” Elizabeth humbly received the Lord in her home before He was even born into the world.

Read Luke 1:39-45.

Laid in a Manger

The Lord could have been born in a palace with many riches, but He chose to be born in a lowly stable with a manger for his bed. The humble shepherds were the first to come and to see the baby Lord. As soon as the angels gave them the good news that the Lord had been born, they hurried to see Him and bowed down before Him. Then they joyfully shared the wonderful news of His birth.

Read Luke 2:8-18.

The Wise Men Visit the Lord

Wise men from the east studied the sky, looking for a special star that would show that the Lord was born. When they saw the star, they rejoiced and followed it to Bethlehem. They brought precious gifts for the infant King—gold, frankincense, and myrrh. When they reached the house where Mary and Joseph lived, they fell down in worship and presented their gifts. Then an angel warned them to go home a different way. They did what the angel said and saved the Lord by not telling Herod where He was. They, too, were heroes for protecting the Lord.

Read Matthew 2:1-12.

The Flight to Egypt

After the wise men departed the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. The angel told him to take the baby Lord to Egypt because the king, Herod, wanted to take His life. Joseph got up at night to start the long walk with Mary and the baby. He was a hero for taking care of the Lord, so He could grow up to do the job He had come to earth to do.

Read Matthew 2:13, 14.

The Lord Came to Teach People About Himself

The Lord God Jesus Christ was born and grew up like us. While He looked like us, He was really very different. The Lord had an earthly mother, Mary, but His Heavenly Father was God Himself. The Lord gradually came to know this about Himself. And He learned truths from the Word so He could fight and overcome the darkness of the hells.



When the Lord started His ministry He taught that He was a loving, merciful, Human God. He showed His wisdom in the things that He taught. He showed His love by helping many people. And He showed His power in the miracles that He did. The Lord taught that Jesus Christ and Jehovah are the same God, just shown to us in different ways.

The Lord Came to Reveal His Power over All Things

The Lord came to earth as a Hero to save us. During His ministry He did many miracles. He healed the sick. He fed the hungry. He sent away evil spirits. He calmed a storm. He walked on water. He raised people from death. He showed His power over all things of creation.

The Lord Came to Teach That He is the God of All People

At the time of the Lord's coming, the Jewish nation thought Jehovah was the God of Israel, but not of other nations. One of the things the Lord came to teach is that He is God, not just of one nation, but of the whole earth. We can see this from these words told to the simple shepherds, "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men" (Luke 2:14).

The Lord Came to Show Us How to Love and Serve Each Other

The Lord loves everyone. The stories of the New Testament show the Lord teaching, healing and showing forgiveness to all people. The Lord came to show us that to follow Him to heaven means loving and serving other people. We, too, can be heroes when we courageously do what the Lord asks of us.

Discussion Questions

- What light did the Lord bring to the world that was in darkness?
- Think of examples of "light" in the Christmas story. Explain the connection between true ideas and "light". In what ways did the Lord bring this light to the world?
- The Lord was born in a humble stable. The shepherds and wise men knelt before Him in humility. Describe humility. Give an example of a humble act. What does humility look like in your life?
- How was the Lord a Hero?
- In what ways were Mary and Joseph heroes?
- Describe a time when you were afraid of the dark. What did you do to stop being afraid?
- How can we be in darkness spiritually? What can we do to find light in our darkness?
- Re-tell the events of the Lord's birth and early childhood in order.
- How can we become heroes for the Lord?

Activity Overview | Why the Lord Came on Earth Christmas Lesson

Recitation

Learn the recitation by heart.

The people who walked in darkness
Have seen a great light;
Those who dwell in the land of the shadow of death,
Upon them a light has shined. Isaiah 9:2

Projects

Choose one or two activities.

- Christmas Lantern
- Christmas Heroes Acrostic Poems
- Picture to Color—Five Christmas Scenes

Additional Activity Ideas

- Compare Joshua's life with the Lord's life. Complete a chart to show who Jesus and Joshua fought against, where they went, and how they showed courage. This activity is online at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/file/activity-compare-joshua-with-jesus-joshua-luke-matthew-mark.pdf>.

Activity 1 | Christmas Lantern

Put together a beautiful Christmas Lantern to celebrate the light the Lord brought into the world with His birth. Four scenes are depicted—the Lord in the Manger, the angel appearing to the shepherds, the wise men presenting their gifts, and the angel warning Joseph to take Mary and Jesus and flee to Egypt.

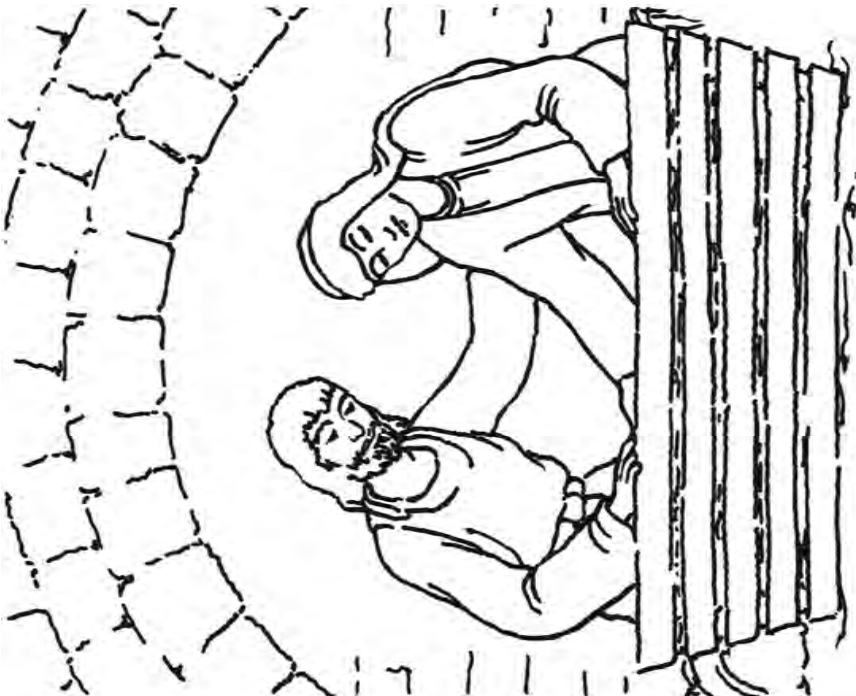
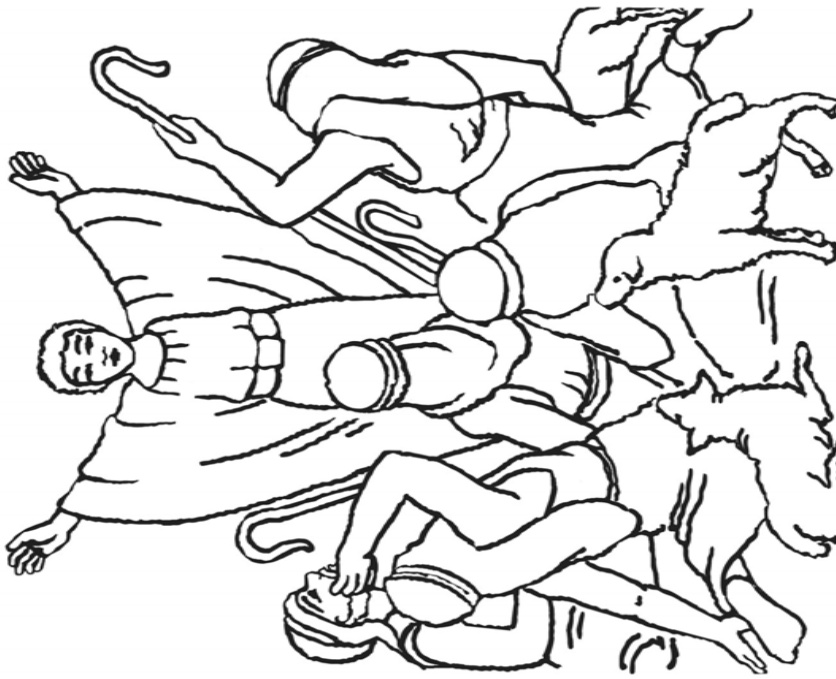
Materials Needed

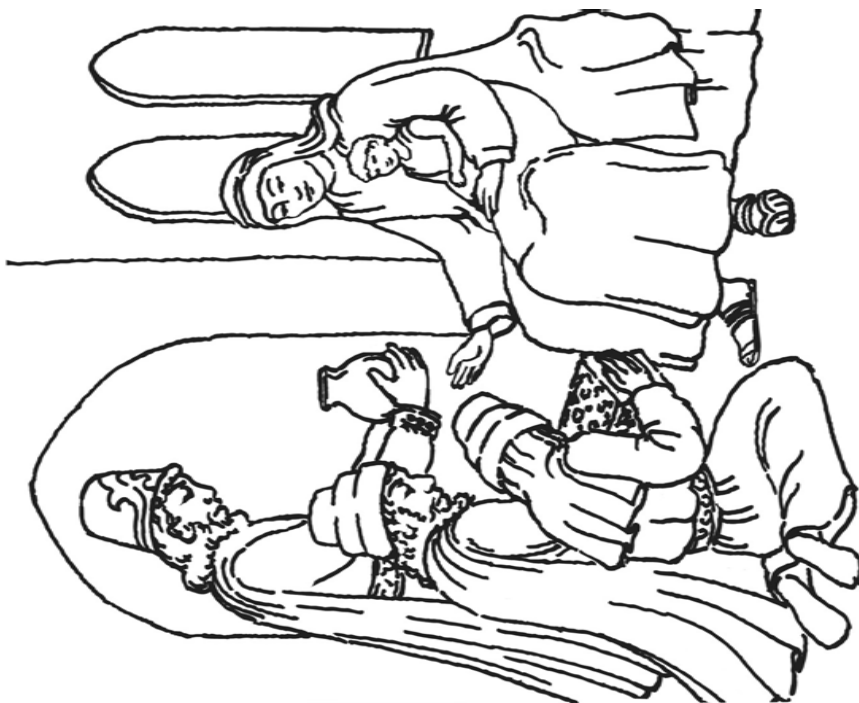
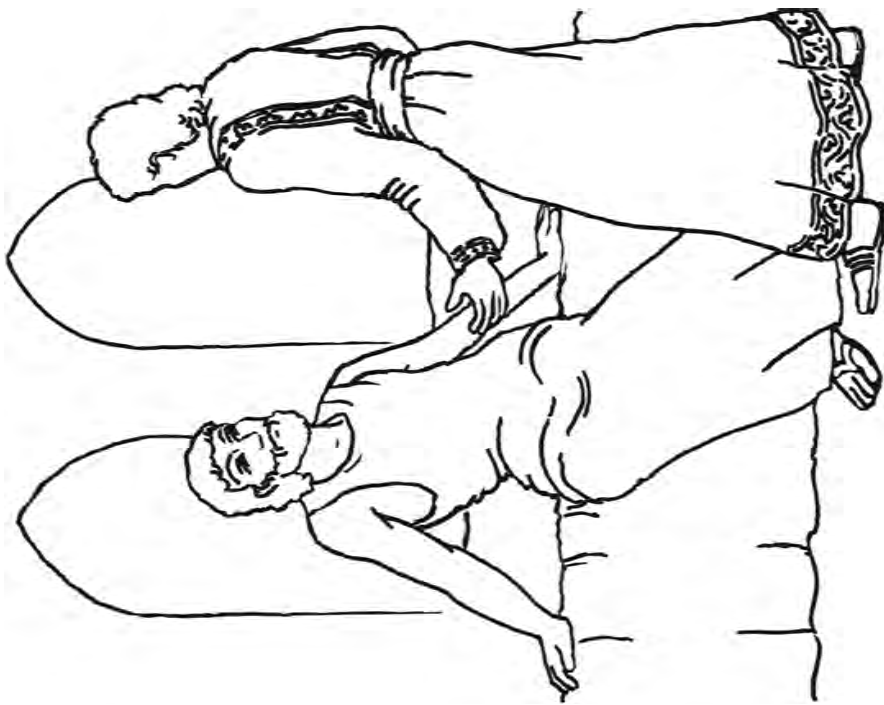
- a copy of the picture pages
- 2 copies of the lantern page
- markers or colored pencils
- scissors
- tape
- electric candle or small flashlight

Directions

1. Color the four pictures from the Christmas story.
2. Fold the picture pages along the thin gray lines.
3. Tape the two picture pages together to form a rectangular box with four windows.
4. Fold the pages that are mostly black along the gray lines. Cut out the white rectangles.
5. Tape the two pages together to form a square with four windows.
6. Put the picture rectangle inside the square with windows to form a lantern.
7. Place the lantern on a table and place an electric candle inside to light the windows.







Cut out white rectangle.

Cut out white rectangle.

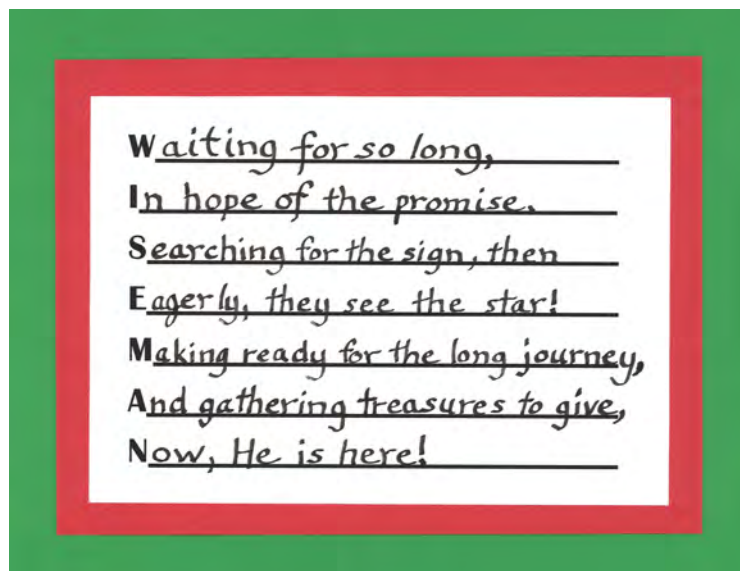
Activity 2 | Christmas Heroes Acrostic Poems

There are many heroes in the Christmas story. Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, and the wise men all acted bravely to protect the Lord while He was a child so He could fulfill His mission on earth. The Lord Himself is the ultimate hero. He took on a human body to overcome the power of the hells for the sake of all people.

Write an acrostic poem about one of the heroes of the Christmas story.

An acrostic poem is one in which the first letter of every line spells out a name or a word vertically. Choose

one of 5 options: Mary, Lord, Shepherd, Joseph, and Wiseman.



Materials Needed

scrap paper

pens, markers, pencils

a copy of *Christmas Hero Acrostic Poem*

optional: dictionary, rhyming dictionary

optional: decorative pens

optional: scissors, colored paper for mounting

Directions

1. Choose a person from the Christmas story you wish to write a poem about. Choices include the Lord, Mary, Joseph, Shepherd and Wiseman.
2. Look at the questions at the top of *Christmas Hero Acrostic Poem*. Use these questions to start thinking about the person you have chosen. Write down your thoughts on a piece of scrap paper.
3. *Optional:* If you are stuck on a particular letter, for example the letter “Y” use a dictionary to help you find words.
4. Write a rough draft of your poem on scrap paper. When you are happy with your poem, write a clean copy using decorative pens if desired.
5. *Optional:* Finish your poem by cutting off the rest of the page and mounting it on colored. (See above.)

Christmas Hero Acrostic Poem

Write an acrostic poem using the names of heroes from the Christmas story. Here are a few questions to help you brainstorm.

1. Who was this person?
2. How did this person protect the Lord?
3. How did he or she learn about the Lord's birth?
4. How did he or she recognize such a tiny baby was the Lord?
5. Did this person give something to the Lord?
6. Who did this person meet in the story?
7. How do you think this person felt?

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