



# CHRISTMAS AT GRACE

Devotional | The King of Christmas: Jesus Christ | December 25, 2022

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FELLOWSHIP

**Discuss:** What are some of your most memorable Christmases?

**Key Text:** *“In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin...the virgin’s name was Mary...31 The angel said to her, ‘You will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.’” (Luke 1:26-27, 31-33)*

There is a legend of a candymaker in Indiana who wanted to share the Christmas story in a unique way. He came up with the idea of the candy cane. He chose pure white to symbolize the virgin birth and sinlessness of Jesus. He made the candy hard to remind us that Jesus is the solid rock and that all His promises are solid. The candy cane would be in the shape of a shepherd’s staff since Jesus is our Shepherd and we are His sheep who know His voice and follow Him. When you turn the candy cane upside down, it is in the shape of a “J,” the first letter of Jesus’ name. The candymaker put a thick red stripe on the candy cane to represent the blood Jesus shed on the cross for our sins so we could have eternal life through faith in Him. Then he added three narrow red stripes to symbolize Jesus’ stripes, or scars, which He received when He was arrested and whipped. The candymaker decided to make the candy cane peppermint flavored, which is like hyssop, a mint-flavored plant that was used in Old Testament times for purification and sacrifice. When we break our candy cane, it reminds us that Jesus’ body was broken for us. When we give a candy cane to someone else, we are sharing the love of Jesus with them, just as God gave Himself to us when He sent Jesus to earth to save us.

Christmas has many familiar symbols: candy canes, Santa Claus, decorated trees, wrapped gifts, etc. But for Gospel-writer Luke, Christmas was best represented by a cradle, a cross, and a crown of Jesus, the King of Christmas.

## 1. The Cradle of the King of Christmas

*“In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin...the virgin’s name was Mary...31 The angel said to her, ‘You will conceive in your womb and bear a son...’” (Luke.1:26-27, 31a)*

Christianity’s Gospel relies on the sinless life of Jesus, beginning with His virgin conception. Because Jesus was born of a virgin, unlike us He did not inherit a sin nature from an earthly father (Rom.5:18), and unlike us He lived a sinless life (Heb.4:15). Jesus’ virgin birth and sinlessness uniquely qualified Him to be our substitute and Savior.

**Discuss:** What key words and phrases in these verses lead us to conclude Jesus was sinless and thus uniquely qualified to be our Savior? Colossians 1:22; Hebrews 4:15; 7:26; 1 Peter 1:18-19; 2:22; 1 John 3:5

## 2. The Cross of the King of Christmas

“...you shall call his name Jesus...” (Luke 1:31b)

The name Jesus means “Jehovah is Savior.” Matthew 1:21 says, “*You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.*” Jesus was born to be our rescuer: “*The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many*” (Mk.10:45). Jesus identified many reasons why He had been born. He came to do God’s will and finish His work (Jn.6:38), to bring glory to His Father (Jn.17:4), and to give us abundant life (Jn.10:10). But first and foremost, Jesus came to bring to climax God’s redemptive strategy by dying on the cross to redeem those who would believe: “*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life*” (Jn.3:16). In fact, none of the aspects of His work mentioned above could have any effect without atonement for sin, which was only possible through His sacrifice made for that sin (Jn.10:11). This was the primary reason Jesus came to earth.

**Discuss:** What key words and phrases do you see in Isaiah’s prophecy of Jesus’ death in Isaiah 53:1-12?

**Discuss:** What key words and phrases do you see in Galatians 4:4-7 about Christmas?

## The Crown of the King of Christmas

“*He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.*” (Lk.1:32-33)

This same Jesus, born humbly in a manger and dying willingly on the cross, will one day return victoriously to reign over an eternal kingdom of His faithful followers! Of the many descriptive titles of Jesus, “King” may be the most significant because it speaks of His universal dominion.

- He is King of all creation (Ps.95:3-5).
- He is King of redemption (Col.1:13-14).
- He is King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev.19:15-16).

The day is coming when “*at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth*” (Php.2:10).

**Discuss:** What key words and phrases do you see about Jesus in 1 Timothy 6:15?

**Discuss:** What does it mean to serve Christ as King?

### For Further Study:

“Why Do We Celebrate Christmas?” article at [www.gotquestions.com](http://www.gotquestions.com)

*The Purpose of Christmas* by Rick Warren

*The Case for Christmas* by Lee Strobel