

The Light - Junior Series
Lesson 96



2016

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

If YOU have never personally believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior; you have the opportunity to do so right NOW. Simply tell God the Father that you believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, who loved us so much that He came down from heaven and became a man to take our place and pay for the penalty for all the sins of all mankind. Jesus, the Savior died on the Cross for your sins and the sins of the whole world. Then Jesus was buried but He rose again and He is alive today seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven. When you make the decision to believe in Jesus in simple faith based on His work on the Cross, you are now a believer and will always be a child of God. When you die, you will spend eternity with Him in Heaven. *(Acts 16:31) "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved."* *(John 3:16) "God loved the world so much that He gave us One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."*



LESSON

John 1:1-5 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (2) He was with God in the beginning. (3) Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. (4) In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. (5) The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not understood it."

INTRODUCTION

As you can see from our previous lesson, we are using a Star Wars theme for these four lessons. Are any of you here a Star Wars fan? How many of you have seen the movies? If you have (and you're old enough to read) you might know that each of the Star Wars movies start the same way. On the movie screen there are these words ***"A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away...."***

When we watch the movies or play with the toys, we feel like we're going into space...into the future! With all of the robots and spaceships and light sabers, it's fun to imagine that someday those things will all be true. But the people who make the movies tell us that the things in the movie happened a long time ago. That's because it's make-believe!

Well we have a story for you really did happen a long time ago...it's the first Christmas. Of course it's not the Christmas season yet but we can always enjoy the greatest GIFT God gave us...His Son, Jesus.

Christmas is a special time when we remember something that happened long ago but different than the make-believe galaxy of Star Wars. What happened long ago at Christmas is very real. Jesus Christ was born. He is the Light and the Savior that God promised to Adam and Eve. The Lord God gave us the GREATEST GIFT of Jesus long ago but the story of Christmas goes back even longer than Jesus' birth.

A long, LONG time ago...hundreds of years before Jesus was born, the people of God were suffering from Adam and Eve's sin in the Garden of Eden.

The town of Bethlehem where Jesus was born was in the nation of Israel but Israel was always in trouble. There was so much war and Dark Invader wanted to hurt Israel because that's where Jesus was. Other countries would come in and take the people of Israel as prisoners and slaves all because Dark Invader or the devil made them hurt Israel. They were on the dark side.



Question: Who started all that trouble for Israel and everyone else?

Answer: the Dark Invader – the devil!

Remember, there is a war and the devil would do anything to stop God from helping His people. God promised to send us the Light and the Savior, Jesus, to take away the darkness from sin. The Dark Invader wanted to stop Jesus any way he could.

All people really needed the Light and they needed to be rescued...saved. They needed hope. The people of Israel especially were very sad because they were hurting all the time. You see the people of Israel are the Jews. Jesus was born a Jew.

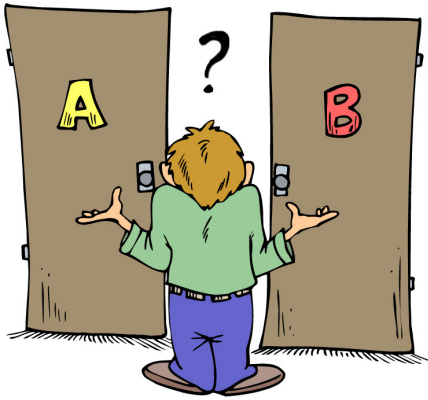
So long, long Ago Jesus came to bring Light to the darkness of this world. His coming here was so important, that it was talked about by the prophets hundreds of years before his birth. Prophets are special people that the Lord God gave special powers to so they could tell the future. So God spoke to certain people we call prophets, to give a message to the people of Israel. God was sending His Son, Jesus. One of the prophets was a man named Micah. Here is part of the message that God gave to Micah. **Micah 5:2, 4-5** is the Bethlehem Prophecy.



Micah 5:2, 4-5 “But you, Bethlehem though you are a small town in the middle of the tribes of Judah, out of you will come for me ONE who will be Ruler over Israel... (4) He will stand and be a Shepherd to His sheep in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD His God. And they will live safely, for then His greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. (5) And He will be their peace.”

Question: What is your favorite ice cream flavor...Chocolate or Vanilla?

Question: What is your favorite color?



You guys all just made CHOICES. A CHOICE is when you decide to do one thing instead of doing something else. Today, we are learning about CHOICES. Ever since Adam and Eve, people have had to CHOOSE whether to believe GOD, or NOT to believe Him. We have already learned about Bible characters, Adam and Eve who had made their choices.

So....if any of you made a choice to have faith or believe God and trust in His promise, you became a JESUS

Disciple, a JeDi. Remember Disciple means “follower” If you became a JeDi, the Lord God promised that His Light would save you if you choose to believe in the Light, the Savior...JESUS. You follow Jesus.

Question: Who is the Light, the Savior?

Answer: Jesus.

Question: Where was He born?

Answer: Bethlehem

BIBLE STORY – THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Joseph and Mary were just simple Jewish people who loved God very much. And God chose them for a special job: to be the parents to Jesus, the Savior of mankind and the Light of the world.

Matthew 1:18-25, “This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was promised to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was going to have a baby through the miracle of the Holy Spirit. (20)...an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, ‘Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because the little baby that is in her is from the Holy Spirit. (21) She will give birth to a Son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.’ (22) All this took place to make happen what the Lord had said through the prophet: (23) ‘The virgin will give birth to a Son, and they will call him Immanuel,’ which means, ‘God is with us.’ (24) When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had ordered him to do and he took Mary home as his wife. (25)...she gave birth to a Son. And he gave him the name Jesus.”

Question: What is your favorite part of Christmas?

For most of us, this is one our all-time favorite part of Christmas! Gifts. We like getting nice things for Christmas. Does that mean we’re selfish and greedy? Well, maybe, if



we're never satisfied with what we get and we always have to get more, maybe. But sometimes it's not about being greedy at all. It's about hoping for the best gift.

You see, it's not only fun to get gifts at Christmas but a really fun part of Christmas is looking forward to getting them. Every year, the family puts up the Christmas tree and you think about all of the beautiful wrapped gifts that are going to be under the tree soon.

Then one day, they appear, like magic. You look at the boxes and try to imagine what's inside of them. It's exciting! You pick it up and shake it and try to guess what's inside. You hope it's one of the things you put on your list. It's really exciting. It's about looking forward to something. It's about the hope of it all, right?



And it's not just gifts. Hope is what Christmas is all about. God spoke through the prophets to tell the people that Jesus would be born. He would come to bring light into a dark world now full of sin. The message of Jesus was delivered hundreds of years before that first Christmas. It gave the people of God who were hurting something to look forward to...something to keep them going...something to hope for. Just like when you look forward to your gifts at Christmas.

Well Jesus is the greatest Gift. He came and took away the sin and darkness of the world and saved us from it all. We have Him NOW. He's the BEST GIFT.

BIBLE STORY - The Three Wise Men and the Dark Invader Enemy

Here's how bad the Dark Invader or the devil was in the story of the three wise men who followed a star to find the new King, Jesus. On the way to find Jesus, they were stopped by King Herod, a dark force, who wasn't happy about Jesus' birth. You see he followed the devil and was Jesus' enemy and he wants to trick the three wise men so he can stop Jesus from saving us. Remember that's what he wants more than anything!!!



Matthew 2:1-8 "After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, three wise men from the east came to Jerusalem (2) and asked, 'Where is the ONE who has been born King of the Jews? We saw His star in the east and have come to worship him.' (3) When King Herod heard this he was very, very upset and so was all the leaders of Jerusalem with him. (4) When he had called together all the Jewish chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ who is Jesus was to be born. (5) 'In Bethlehem in Judea,' they said 'for this is what the prophet has

written: (6) (Quote for O.T. prophecy) 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means the littlest city among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a Ruler who will be the Shepherd of my people Israel.' (7) Then Herod called the three wise men secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. (8) He sent them to Bethlehem and said, 'Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.'"

Finally, the three wise men arrived in Bethlehem where they found Jesus and they gave him gifts...gold, incense and myrrh. We must remember that Jesus is God's LOVE gift to us.

Matthew 2:9-12. The three wise men meet Jesus. *"After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child Jesus was. (10) When they saw the star, they were so happy. (11) When they got to the house, they saw the child Jesus with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. (12) And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route."*



Boy was King Herod mad!! The Dark Invader was using him to stop Jesus. God didn't let the Dark Invader find out where Jesus was! YAY!!! The Light chased away the darkness! Isn't that great?

So God gave us Jesus. When we believe in Him and put our hope in him, we have the greatest gift there is. We are saved from the darkness that sin brought into the world. Jesus chased away the darkness and now we have His Light. That is what Christmas is all about.



Pray:

Dear God,

The world can seem so dark at times. Thank you for sending Jesus to bring light into the darkness. Help us to choose Him.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen