



**Mustard Seed Sunday School Lesson for December 24, 2006
Released on Wednesday, December 20, 2006**

“Jesus: God with Us (Christmas)”

**GOLDEN TEXT: “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.”
(John 1:14 NIV)**

SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT: John 1:1—18

1In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was with God in the beginning.

3Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4In him was life, and that life was the light of men. 5The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood^[a] it.

6There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. 7He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. 8He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. 9The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.^[b]

10He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. 11He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. 12Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— 13children born not of natural descent,^[c] nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

14The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only,^[d] who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

15John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' " 16From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. 17For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only,^{[e][f]} who is at the Father's side, has made him known.

Footnotes:

[John 1:5](#) Or darkness, and the darkness has not overcome

[John 1:9](#) Or This was the true light that gives light to every man who comes into the world

[John 1:13](#) Greek of bloods

[John 1:14](#) Or the Only Begotten

[John 1:18](#) Or the Only Begotten

[John 1:18](#) Some manuscripts but the only (or only begotten) Son

[Scripture available at www.biblegateway.com as provided by Gospel Communications]

NOTES ON THE LESSON

This lesson is one of great joy for all Christians young and old! In it we are reminded of how Jesus Christ came into the world. This is what we call being “incarnated.” He was and is and will always be God, but when Jesus became incarnate, He left His heavenly home where He lived with God, and took on human form to look, eat, sleep, walk, talk, and live like us. This is what we celebrate at Christmastime.

May God use your teaching of this lesson to help expand your students’ understanding of and appreciation for Christmas. Remind them that Christmas is not about getting and receiving undeserved gifts, but rather it is about remembering and celebrating Jesus’ entry into the world to die for our sins and provide us with eternal life with Him. This is a gift that is always new; it never gets old and it keeps on giving to anyone who chooses to receive it. Hallelujah!

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Show that Jesus is a man, but He is also God.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

Jesus has always been God—from the very beginning.

Jesus created all things.

Jesus became a human being, and He now lives within believers in the form of the Holy Spirit.

PLANNING VISUAL AIDS:

For Beginning the Lesson and Telling the Lesson, you will need a Christmas manger scene complete with figurines along with a picture of Jesus as an adult.

For Helping to Remember the, you will need an empty bathroom tissue tube for each student, 1-inch circles of tan paper, scraps of brown or black yarn, scraps of fabric, scissors than can cut fabric, fine-line markers, brown construction paper for each student, and glue sticks.

BEGINNING THE LESSON:

(Teacher, let the children look at the manger set and play with the pieces for a few minutes. Then hold up the Baby Jesus figure.) Children, we love to celebrate Jesus’ birthday at Christmas, but have you ever wondered where Jesus was before He was born? Where was He before He was a baby growing in His mother’s body?

Jesus was different from all other babies. There was a moment in time when my life began. There was a moment when yours did too. I am _____ years old, so one hundred years ago I did not even exist. (Teacher, ask a child how old he or she is.) Were you living five hundred years ago? No.

Here is a wonderful surprise. Jesus was already living before He was born, before He was growing inside His mother. One thousand years before He was born, He was already living. Ten billion years before He was born, He was already living. (Teacher, show picture of adult Jesus.)

In fact, there has never been a time when Jesus was not living. He is God’s Son. He has no beginning and no end. That is what our lesson talks about.

TELLING THE LESSON:

The Apostle John wrote one of the Gospels—a record of Jesus' life. He began by writing, "In the beginning was the Word (teacher, hold up one finger), and the Word was with God (hold up two fingers), and the Word was God" (twist the two fingers together) (John 1:1).

We know that the Word was Jesus, for later on John wrote, "And the Word was made flesh, and made its dwelling among us" (vs. 14). We can put Jesus' name in verse 1: "In the beginning was [Jesus], and [Jesus] was with God (with His Father), and [Jesus] was God.

(Teacher, ask a child to hold up the Baby Jesus figure.) Who was Jesus before He came into our world as a baby? He was God, and He never stopped being God. He always was and always will be our great God.

What did Jesus do before He was born as a baby and came into our world? Listen to these wonderful words from John 1: "All things were made by him" (vs. 3). What did Jesus do? He created the world, the universe, all the angels—everything there is.

Do you think there might be something somewhere way out in space or way down in the ocean that Jesus did not make? No, the Bible says, "Without him was not any thing made that was made." Jesus did it all! How wonderful Jesus is!

What happened when Jesus left heaven and came into our world as a baby? (Teacher, let another child show the Baby Jesus figure.) He grew up, of course. (Let another child show the adult Jesus picture.) He brought life and light into our world. The Bible says, "In him was life; and the life was the light of men" (vs. 4).

God sent another man named John to let people know who Jesus really was. This John was so great that some people thought he himself was the Light, the Saviour God had promised long ago. But John was not the Light. He was not the Saviour. He came to show people that Jesus was the Saviour. He came to tell people to get their hearts ready for Jesus' coming.

(Teacher, show the picture of the adult Jesus.) So there was Jesus. He was in the world. He was born into our world as a baby and laid in a manger. The world was made by Him, but the world did not know who He was. When He was a little boy, only a few people understood that He was the Saviour God had promised to take away our sins.

When He grew and became a man, Jesus did many miracles and taught many wonderful truths. Still the world did not know Him. Many people still did not understand who He really was.

Jesus came to His own people, the Jewish nation into which He was born. But many of them did not receive Him as their Saviour.

Some did receive Jesus, though. To all of those who did receive Him and believe in Him, Jesus gave a very special gift. He gave them the power to become sons of God. They were born again. They became part of God's family.

John told everyone who Jesus was. He said Jesus was more important than he was. Jesus was younger than John, but John said Jesus was alive before he was. How can that be? It was true, since Jesus lived in heaven before coming into our world.

No one had ever seen God before Jesus came. When Jesus came into our world, He showed us what God is like. He showed us God's truth in His great teachings. He showed us God's grace when He gave Himself to die on the cross to pay the punishment for all our sins. No wonder so many people love Jesus and trust Him as their Saviour!

TELLING HOW TO LIVE:

Have you received Jesus as your Saviour? Remember that when you are ready to do so, you can let me know, and I will pray with you after class. I remember when I received Jesus. (Teacher, briefly share your own testimony in a few sentences.) I am so glad I received Jesus, and I am praying that you will receive Him as your Saviour too.

Do your friends and family know Jesus? Do they know that He has lived forever? Do they know He is the great God who made us? Would you like to pray now and ask God to bring to your mind someone you should tell what you have learned today? (Teacher, give a time for silent prayer. Close by praying, "Jesus, You have brought people to our minds. Help us tell them what we have learned today. In Jesus' name. Amen.")

HELPING TO REMEMBER:

Let the students make Baby Jesus figures to remind them of how God's Son left heaven to be born as one of us. Have them draw a face on the circle and glue it on the cardboard tube. They can glue bits of yarn around the face for hair and wrap the figure in scraps of cloth to look like a baby.

They can fold the construction paper to form a simple manger to hold the baby. On the side of the manger, they can print the golden text. Encourage them to show the completed project to friends and family and use it as an opening to begin telling them about the deity and eternity of Jesus.

EXPLAINING THE GOLDEN TEXT:

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." (John 1:14 NIV)
Jesus is the Word who had lived in heaven with the Father. John said the Word was God, so Jesus was God the Son, living with His Father in heaven.

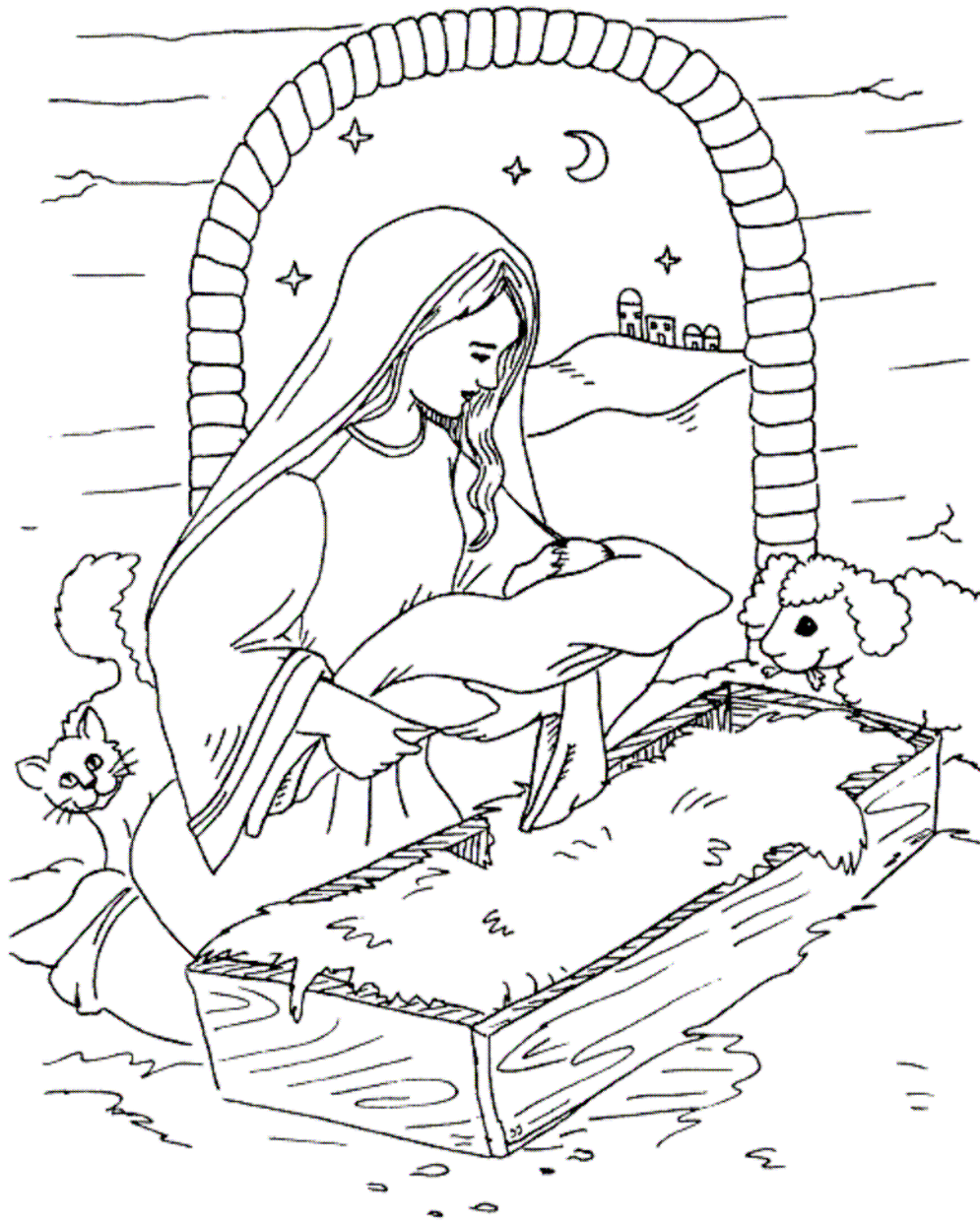
One day Jesus moved. He left His glorious, eternal home in heaven. He came to our earth and became a tiny baby with a body of flesh, just like yours and mine.

He lived among us, growing up just as we do. As Jesus lived on our earth, we saw what God is like. We saw how good He is. We saw how strong He is. We saw God in human body. For the first time we were able to understand Him at least a little.

Now we know more than ever before how awesome our Saviour, Jesus, is. Now we want more than ever to love and worship Him! He is God's very special Son forever and ever.

MUSTARD SEED LESSON ACTIVITIES:

"Happy Birthday, Jesus!"



"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." (John 1:14 NIV)

QUESTIONS:

1. How old is Jesus?

Jesus does not have an age. Before He was born on the earth to the Virgin Mary and her husband Joseph, He lived with God in heaven along with the Holy Spirit.

2. When Jesus was born as a little baby, did anyone know that He was God?

Yes, a few people knew who He was—that He had a special plan of salvation for the entire world. But many others did not know that He was God incarnate—in the flesh.

3. What was John the Baptist telling people about Jesus before He came?

John the Baptist told people that Jesus would come and give eternal life to all who believed. John the Baptist told people that he was not the one who would or could do this, but that Jesus was the One.

4. Do we know what God looks like?

Although no one has ever seen God in person and lived to tell about it, we know that Jesus looked and acted like God because Jesus tells us so in the Bible. God must be loving, forgiving, unselfish, and tell the truth—because these are words that describe Jesus.

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORDS:

1) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with [people, God], and the Word was God. (John 1:1)

2) The light shines in the [darkness, window], but the darkness has not understood it. (John 1:5)

3) There came a man who was sent from God; his name was [Stanley, John]. (John 1:6)

4) Yet to all who [made fun of, received] him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. (John 1:12)

5) The Word became [fresh, flesh] and made his dwelling among us. (John 1:14a)

Answers: 1) God, 2) darkness, 3) John, 4) received, 5) flesh

UNSCRAMBLE THESE WORDS:

1. robn _____
2. rednilch _____
3. smatricks _____
4. kresdask _____
5. lewngild _____
6. shelf _____
7. sesju _____
8. nhoj _____
9. glhit _____
10. smoes _____
11. creviee _____
12. twisens _____

Answers: 1) born, 2) children, 3) Christmas, 4) darkness, 5) dwelling, 6) flesh, 7) Jesus, 8) John, 9) light, 10) Moses, 11) receive, 12) witness

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Have a blessed Christmas! From all of us at Jesus Is All Ministries.