

Christmas 2012

## JESUS: GOD'S GIFT

John 3:16

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

1. Read verse 16a. To what does “the world” refer? (Jn 7:7; 16:8) What should God have done to the world? (Gen 6:6-7; Ro 1:18) Why did he not? What does this tell us about God? (1 Jn 4:16) Why is it important to accept this?
2. Read verse 16b. How did God demonstrate his love for the world? How difficult do you think this was to do? (Jn 1:18; Mt 3:17) In what respect was this God's final alternative? (Lk 20:13)
3. When did God reveal to mankind his plan to send his Son? (Gen 3:15) How did God make known his plan progressively? (Gen 12:3; 22:18; 2 Sam 7:16; Isa 7:14; 9:6; 53:1-12, etc.) How did Jesus' coming fulfill God's promises? (Mt 1:22-23; Lk 1:32-33; 24:44) What do you learn here about God?
4. Read verse 16c. For what purpose did God send his Son into the world? (3:17-18) Who can receive this gift and how? (Jn 1:12; 5:24) What happens to those who do not receive this gift? (Jn 8:24; Rev 21:8) In what respect is Jesus God's best gift of all for mankind?