



4

Christmas: In the Fullness of Time

OVERVIEW

Preparing the Teacher

Christmas is a celebration of Christ; a celebration of God's faithfulness and power in fulfilling His promises. Christ's coming fulfilled the promises of a Savior God made to Adam, Abraham, David, and many others. Christ was the Messiah, who would be the salvation of His people. Christ was born subject to the law of Moses, and He kept it perfectly. Christ's death on the cross made it possible and legal for God to put aside the death penalty of sin for all who put their trust in the Messiah. Christ's coming was the event toward which all human history had pointed and the hope that changed human history forever. As you consider the wonder of the Incarnation, meditate on **John 1:14** and **Philippians 2:5–11**. Thank the Lord Jesus—the glorious Son of God—for humbling Himself to become human to fulfill the many prophecies for sinners' eternal forgiveness and redemption!

Preparing the Materials

63–64: Recording of the recitative “Behold, a Virgin Shall Conceive” from Handel’s *Messiah* [O]

64: Two 2" × 12" strips of construction paper (one red and one green)
[E, O]

Unit 4 Christmas: In the Fullness of Time

Theme, Memory Verse, and Principle	Lesson Number	TE Page	Worktext Page(s)	Lesson Title	Scripture or Focus	Connections
Unit 4a Christ, the Promised One Isaiah 7:14 <i>Isaiah foretold the virgin birth of Christ.</i>	61	134	90–92	Bible Study: The Genealogy of Christ	Matthew 1:1–17; Luke 3:23–38	
	62	136	93	A Child of Promise	Matthew 1:18–25; Luke 1:26–35	
	63	138	94–95	Faithful Follower: George Frederick Handel	Biography	
	64	140	96–97	Thoughts of Peace (Part 1)	Application Story	Art
	65	143		Unit 4a Activity		
Unit 4b Christ, the Key to the Prophecies Galatians 4:4–5 <i>In His perfect time, God sent Jesus Christ to earth to redeem humanity.</i>	66	144	98–99	The Birth of a King	Matthew 2:1–8; Luke 2:1–20	Timeline: Birth of Christ; History
	67	147	100–101	God Protected His Son	Matthew 2:9–23	
	68	149	102	Bible Study: Christ's Purpose in Coming to Earth	Various New Testament verses	Drama
	69	150	103	Thoughts of Peace (Part 2)	Application Story	
	70	151		Unit 4b Activity	Review	

Bible Doctrines	Skills/Applications
The Doctrine of the Bible <i>Proofs of Inspiration</i> The Bible is accurate in its history (John 17:17). The Bible is accurate in its prophecy (Num. 23:19).	Foundational <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand that Christ came to save sinners Recognize Christ's fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah Realize what it cost Christ to humble Himself to become a human Realize that Christ gives people peace as they trust in Him
The Doctrine of God <i>Attributes of God</i> God is faithful (1 Cor. 1:9).	Practical <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read a timeline Read a family tree Use cross-references Identify parallel accounts Recall facts and details Locate information in the Bible Conduct an analytical Bible study of a chapter Develop an appreciation of art Recognize names of Jesus Study the plan of salvation Identify prophecies given and prophecies fulfilled
The Doctrine of Salvation <i>Provision of God</i> Christ became human (incarnation) (John 1:14). <i>Elements of Salvation</i> God forgives the believer's sins (pardon) (Eph. 1:7).	Personal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purpose to serve others Develop the Bible reading habit Apply Bible knowledge to everyday life
The Doctrine of Angels and Satan <i>Organization</i> God sometimes used angels to reveal His will to humans (Luke 1:13).	

Christ, the Promised One

Unit 4a

PREVIEW

Doctrines

- **61:** God is faithful (1 Cor. 1:9).
- **61–62:** The Bible is accurate in its prophecy (Num. 23:19).
- **62:** God forgives the believer's sins (pardon) (Eph. 1:7).
- **62:** God has used angels at times to reveal His will to humans (Luke 1:13).

Skills and Applications

- Learn Isaiah 7:14
- Read a family tree
- Recall facts and details
- Do an analytical Bible study of a chapter
- Identify prophecies that were given and fulfilled
- Recognize names of Jesus
- Develop the Bible reading habit
- Realize that Christ gives people peace as they trust in Him
- Recognize Christ's fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah
- Locate information in the Bible
- Apply Bible knowledge to everyday life

LESSON
61

The Genealogy of Christ

Materials

- Chart 1 ("The Bible Reading H.A.B.I.T.")
- Unit 4 bookmark [E]

Music

Choose a unit song. Songs that correlate with this unit's theme include "Away in a Manger," "Born to Die," "Joy to the World," "O Come, All Ye Faithful," and "The Birthday of a King."

Memory Verse: Isaiah 7:14

Principle: Isaiah foretold the virgin birth of Christ. Locate and read aloud **Isaiah 7:14** as the students read silently. Tell them that in this verse Isaiah prophesies a miracle—that a pure, unmarried woman would have a baby. This prophecy was fulfilled when the Lord caused Mary to be the mother of Jesus while she was still unmarried and a virgin. Remind the students that the name *Immanuel* means "God with us." Direct the stu-

dents to mark the location with their Unit 4 bookmarks and to highlight the verse in their Bibles (optional).

Bible Study

Preview Background Information

Matthew's Genealogy

The genealogy of Christ in Matthew 1 gives us His royal line, showing Christ's right to the throne of David by succession. Jesus is shown to be the son of Abraham and the son of David, the fulfillment of the covenants God made with each of these men to send the Messiah through their descendants. Throughout this gospel, Matthew takes great care to present Christ as the King of Israel, the Messiah in whom all of the Old Testament prophecies about the promised seed are fulfilled.

Luke's Genealogy

Many Bible scholars believe that Luke presents Mary's family tree because the names from David to Joseph differ from the names in Matthew's genealogy.

Get the Bible Reading H.A.B.I.T.

Name _____

BIBLE STUDY CHART

After you read the Scripture for each day, write the date in the box.

Have a special time set aside each day to read your Bible. If possible, make it the same time every day.

Asks God to teach you from His Word. Remember to thank Him for helping you to understand and apply it.

Be still and pay attention to what you are reading.

Investigate the Scripture by asking yourself questions about it.

Take time to look up words and ideas you do not understand.

Redemption: God's Grand Design

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90 Lesson 61

Introduce the Bible Study

Discuss family trees. Choose a student to look up the word *genealogy* in the glossary and read the definition aloud (“record of ancestors; family tree”). Explain that sometimes people keep such family records in the front of their Bibles.

Have you ever seen your family tree?

Do you know where your ancestors lived and what they were like and what they did? Allow several students to tell what they know.

Explain that Jesus had a family tree through His earthly parents, Mary and Joseph. The Gospels of Matthew and Luke both give a record of Christ’s ancestors.

Teach for Understanding

► Read Matthew 1:1–17 and Luke 3:23–38 or use the following retelling of the passages. Listening question: **What promise to Adam and Eve did Jesus fulfill? He was the Seed of the woman who would bruise the serpent’s head.**

Genealogy of Christ

Matthew’s Gospel begins by giving Jesus’ family tree, the genealogy of Joseph, Jesus’ earthly father. Joseph’s family tree begins with Abraham and traces Christ’s lineage through the patriarchs and kings of Israel. Jesus was the

fulfillment of the promise God made to Abraham in Genesis 12 when God said that He would bless those who bless Abraham, and curse those who curse Abraham, and all the families of the earth would be blessed in Abraham. Jesus also fulfilled the covenant God made with David when He said that He would set up David’s seed after him and establish the throne of David’s kingdom forever. God had promised that the Messiah would descend from Abraham and David, and the Lord Jesus Christ fits these qualifications.

Although women were not normally named in genealogies in that era, Matthew includes four women in this family tree: Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and Bathsheba. Three of these women—Tamar, Rahab, and Bathsheba—are known for terrible sins that they committed during their lifetimes. Rahab and Ruth were not even Jews. Rahab was from the land of Canaan, and Ruth was from Moab.

What does this tell us about God? He is able to take people whose sin separates them far from Him and bring them into a close relationship with Himself. It also reflects that Christ includes both Jews and Gentiles in His kingdom.

Luke’s Gospel also includes a genealogy of Jesus. Luke begins with Christ and works backward all the way to Adam, the “son of God.” Many scholars believe Luke is tracing Mary’s family tree, although her name is not mentioned. Through this line also, Christ is a descendant of David. Luke’s genealogy reminds us that Jesus is both the Son of Man and the Son of God. It also shows us that Jesus fulfilled the promise God made to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Jesus Christ was the Seed of the woman; He was the one who would bruise the serpent’s head and take away the curse of sin.

Which of Jesus’ ancestors did Matthew emphasize? **Abraham and David**

Why was it important for Matthew to show that Jesus had descended from these men? **Being a descendant of Abraham and David was a qualification for the Messiah; Jesus fulfilled that qualification.**

- What was unusual about the women named in Matthew’s genealogy? **Three of them had committed terrible sins; two were not Jews.**
- What does Matthew show us about Jesus Christ by mentioning these women? **that anybody from any background may have a personal relationship with Him and that He can use anybody who submits to Him**
- To what man does Luke’s genealogy trace Jesus? **Adam**
- What promise to Adam and Eve did Jesus fulfill? **He was the Seed of the woman who would bruise the serpent’s head.**

Worktext page 90

Develop the Bible reading habit. Encourage each student to do the Bible reading. Display Chart 1 (“The Bible Reading H.A.B.I.T.”) as a reminder to the students as they do their Bible reading (optional).

Bible Study Methods
Analysis

Name _____



While the *synthetic* method of Bible study looks at the Bible as a whole, *analytical* Bible study closely examines everything possible about a book, passage, or chapter. Commentaries, cross-references, concordances, Bible dictionaries, and Bible encyclopedias are useful tools for analytical Bible study. The more closely you study the Bible, the more you learn about God, who provides grace and peace for godly living (2 Pet. 1:2–4). The supreme goal of studying the Bible is to know God (Jer. 9:23–24).

Follow the directions to practice analyzing by doing an analysis of a Bible chapter.

1. Choose a chapter in the New Testament. Write the reference. _____
2. Read questions 3–11 (without answering them), then read the chapter several times. Check one box each time you read it. Answer questions 3–11.
3. Briefly state the main idea of the chapter. _____
4. What subjects or doctrines are mentioned/explained in the chapter? _____

5. What sin or consequences of the Fall caused God to say this?

6. How does this passage relate to the gospel?

7. Who was inspired by the Holy Spirit to write this chapter?

8. Where and when was it written?

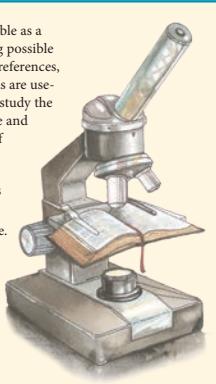
9. What people are mentioned?

10. What places are mentioned?

11. List any unfamiliar words and write out their meanings.

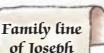
Redemption: God's Grand Design

Lesson 61 91



Royal Heritage
Matthew 1:1–17; Luke 3:23–38

Name _____



Family line of Joseph
the legal father of Jesus

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graph TD
    Adam --> Seth
    Seth --> Enoch
    Enoch --> Methuselah
    Methuselah --> Lamech
    Lamech --> Noah
    Noah --> Shem
    Shem --> Abraham
    Abraham --> Isaac
    Isaac --> Jacob
    Jacob --> Judah
    Judah --> Boaz
    Boaz --> Obed
    Obed --> Jesse
    Jesse --> David
    David --> Solomon
    Solomon --> Rehoboam
    Rehoboam --> Abijah
    Abijah --> Asa
    Asa --> Eleazar
    Eleazar --> Matthew
    Matthew --> Jacob
    Jacob --> Joseph
  
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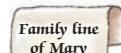
Family and heritage have always been important to the Jewish people. A clear family line was necessary to prove that a person was a descendant of Abraham. As a descendant of Abraham, the person could claim to be part of the covenant God made with Abraham.

Both Matthew and Luke record the lineage of Christ to show that He was a true descendant of Abraham and of David. Joseph was Christ's legal father. Matthew shows the royal ancestry of Christ, proving Him a descendant of both Abraham and of David. Luke gives the line of relationships through Mary's family background to Adam. By doing this, Luke showed the Jews and the Gentiles that Christ came to earth for all people.

Throughout history, God made promises that only the true Messiah could fulfill.

Use the family lines of Jesus' ancestors to complete the sentences. (Note: Not all generations are included in the lists.)

1. After the Fall of Adam _____ and Eve in the Garden of Eden, God promised that a descendant of theirs would have victory over Satan (Gen. 3:15).
2. Christ is a descendant of Noah _____. The event of the Flood stands as a picture of redemption and mercy for those who believe while God righteously judges sin (Gen. 7:1–5).
3. God promised Abraham _____ that Sarah would have a son, and a great nation would be established through whom all nations would be blessed (Gen. 17:15–19).
4. Through a prophet, God told David _____ that the throne of his kingdom would be established through his descendants forever. Christ, the King of Kings, will reign forever. As a descendant of David, Christ fulfills this prophecy (2 Sam. 7:12–16).
5. The family lines differ at Solomon _____ and Nathan _____, both sons of David.



Family line of Mary
the mother of Jesus

```

graph TD
    Adam --> Seth
    Seth --> Enoch
    Enoch --> Methuselah
    Methuselah --> Lamech
    Lamech --> Noah
    Noah --> Shem
    Shem --> Abraham
    Abraham --> Isaac
    Isaac --> Jacob
    Jacob --> Judah
    Judah --> Boaz
    Boaz --> Obed
    Obed --> Jesse
    Jesse --> David
    David --> Nathan
    Nathan --> Mattathah
    Mattathah --> Menna
    Menna --> Meloa
    Meloa --> Heli
    Heli --> Mary
  
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Redemption: God's Grand Design

Lesson 61 92

Worktext page 91

Direct a Bible study. Explain that this is a second method of Bible study. The first method the students looked at was the *synthetic* (or survey) method in Lesson 21. Read the information about the *analytical* method of Bible study. Encourage the students to select a chapter to study according to the analytical method. (Note: You may want to choose a chapter and do this activity together or allow students to complete the study using one of the chapters from their reading schedule on page 90.)

Worktext page 92

Analyze the family tree of Jesus Christ.

LESSON

62

A Child of Promise

Music

Review the chosen song and develop higher-order thinking skills by asking application questions.

Memory Verse: Isaiah 7:14

Practice the memory verse. Read the verse aloud while the students read it silently. Point out that the name *Immanuel* affirms that Jesus is God, and as God the Son, He came to live on earth in human form.

 **What does the phrase “God with us” mean?** In the physical sense it means that God took on human form to live as a human among us (Phil. 2:6–8). But in the practical and spiritual sense it emphasizes that Jesus was as human as we are. He experienced the same things we face (hunger, thirst, pain, exhaustion, and sadness), and He was tested as we are. However, He resisted every temptation without sinning (Heb. 4:15). This was necessary so that He could be our Savior (2 Cor. 5:21).

 **What did it cost for Jesus to humble Himself to take on the form of a man and come to earth?** In our finite wisdom we know it cost Christ something, but we do not know the full extent. Of the things that it cost Christ, probably the two most devastating things are that after He lived a perfectly

righteous life, He became sin for us on the cross (**2 Cor. 5:21**), and that as He suffered for our sin on the cross, His constant fellowship and unity with God the Father was interrupted (**Matt. 27:46**). Other answers may include that He gave up the constant environment of the truth, peace, and beauty of the righteousness of heaven. (See also **Phil. 2:5–8**.)

Bible Account

Preview Background Information

Messiah's Kingdom

Most of the Israelites assumed from Old Testament prophecy that the Messiah would come to set up an earthly kingdom. They believed that when He came, He would deliver them from foreign governments that oppressed them. When Jesus talked about the kingdom, many did not realize that He meant a *spiritual* kingdom that would be in those who trusted Him as Savior so that He could rule in their hearts (**Luke 17:20–21**). It was Christ's first coming that fulfilled the New Covenant (**Jer. 31:31–34**), in which He promised to put His law within the hearts of both Jews and Gentiles who trusted Him for forgiveness of sin (**Luke 22:20; 1 Tim. 4:10; 1 John 2:2**). It will not be until Christ's Second Coming that He will set up a visible kingdom on the earth.

Introduce the Bible Account

Discuss the New Covenant that God promised to make with Israel. Read aloud **Jeremiah 31:31–34**.

- ⦿ How did the Israelites respond to the first covenant God made with them when He gave Moses the law? **Although God was faithful to the covenant, the Israelites broke the law.**
- ▶ According to God's New Covenant with Israel, where would He put His law? **inside them; in their hearts**
- ⦿ What change do you think this would make in their relationship with Him? **They would have hearts that desired to obey Him.**
- ▶ What did God promise to do with Israel's sin? **He promised to forgive it and to not remember it against them.**
- ⦿ When will the Messiah's earthly kingdom be established? **at the time of His Second Coming**

Share the background information with the students.

Teach for Understanding

Read **Matthew 1:18–25** and **Luke 1:26–35** or use the following retelling of the passages. Listening question: **What do we know about what was happening to Mary? Her pregnancy was the fulfillment of **Isaiah 7:14** (a prophecy that had been given about seven hundred years earlier).**

A Child of Promise

God made it very clear to Mary and Joseph that the child that Mary would give birth to was the promised Messiah. God sent an angel to each of them with that special message.

Mary and Joseph were pledged to one another by a marriage contract, but they had not yet begun to live

together or treat each other as husband and wife. The angel Gabriel came to Mary and gave her a very special greeting, saying that she was highly favored, that the Lord was with her, and that she was blessed among women.

Mary was troubled at Gabriel's sudden appearance, but he urged her to not be afraid. Then he gave her his special message. "You have found favor with God and will conceive in your womb. You will give birth to a son and should name Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Highest, and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will never end."

When Mary asked how this would happen, Gabriel explained that she would conceive by the power of the Holy Spirit. He said that the child she would bear would be holy and would be called the Son of God.

When Joseph found out that Mary was pregnant, he thought she had been unfaithful to him. Being a righteous man, he did not want to expose what had happened and make Mary a public example of shame. He planned to divorce her according to Jewish law but to do it quietly.

Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. The angel told him to not be afraid to take Mary as his wife. The angel explained that Mary had conceived the child by the Holy Spirit and that she would have a baby boy. The angel not only told Joseph that he should name Him Jesus, but that that would be His name because He would save His people from their sins. This glad message from the angel was revealing that Jesus was the fulfillment of **Isaiah 7:14** (a prophecy that had been given about seven hundred years earlier).

*Choose a volunteer to quote or read aloud **Isaiah 7:14**.*

Mary and Joseph were familiar with the law and the prophets. They understood that Jesus was to be the Messiah, the fulfillment of God's promise to David to establish his throne forever. His coming to earth as God in human form was for the purpose of saving people from their sin. While Mary and Joseph did not understand exactly how Jesus would live and accomplish all of God's will, they believed God and entered into marriage in obedience to Him.

-
- ▶ For what purpose did Jesus come? **to save His people from their sins**
 - ⦿ How were people forgiven of their sin before the coming of Christ? **They were forgiven by believing in the Savior to come.**
- See questions 78–80 from *Bible Truths for Christian Growth*.
- ⦿ What kind of kingdom did Jesus set up at His first coming? **a spiritual kingdom in the hearts of people**
 - ▶ How did Mary and Joseph respond to the announcement of Jesus' birth? **They believed God and obeyed Him even though they did not understand completely.**

Prepared for the Promise

Luke 1:26–35; Matthew 1:18–25

Name _____

Imagine Mary's surprise when Gabriel appeared to her. Using Old Testament prophecies, Gabriel described the Son that would be born to her (Luke 1:32–33). During and after Christ's ministry, these prophecies were fulfilled and Christ was recognized by these same descriptions.

Answer the questions. You may use your Bible for help.

1. What was Mary's reaction to Gabriel (Luke 1:29)?
She was troubled and wondered why he had come.

2. How did Gabriel comfort Mary (Luke 1:30)?
He told her to not be afraid because she had found favor with God.

Write the letter of each reference next to the description given to Mary by Gabriel.

Old Testament Prophecy	Gabriel's description of Christ (Luke 1:32–33)	Prophecy Fulfilled
A. Daniel 7:13–14, 27	B	3. He will be great. F
B. Malachi 1:11	C	4. He will have the throne of David. D
C. 2 Samuel 7:5, 12–13	A	5. His kingdom will never end. E



A *betrothal* or engagement was a legal contract that could be broken only by divorce. Later, after the wedding took place, the couple could live together. For Mary and Joseph, the betrothal agreement had already been made, but their wedding had not happened yet. Soon it was evident to Joseph that Mary was expecting a baby. It looked as if she had sinned and deserved the law's penalty, stoning. The only ways to avoid the stoning were for Joseph to divorce Mary or to make her his wife.

Complete the sentences. You may use your Bible for help.

6. God sent an **angel** in a dream to tell Joseph the truth about Mary (Matt. 1:20).
7. Joseph was told that Mary's child was of the **Holy** Ghost (Matt. 1:20).
8. The child born of Mary would **fulfill** what the Lord had said through a prophet (Matt. 1:22).
9. The prophet had said a virgin would have a Son and His name would be **Immanuel (Emmanuel)** (Matt. 1:23).
10. Joseph obeyed the angel's command and took Mary home as his **wife** (Matt. 1:24).



Why do you think it was important for Jesus to be born of a virgin?

Redemption: God's Grand Design

Lesson 62

93

Memory Verse: Isaiah 7:14

Practice the memory verse. Locate Isaiah 7:14 and select a student to read it aloud.

The angel's message to Joseph revealed that when Immanuel came, He would save His people from their sin. The specific application is therefore salvation. However once a person is saved, all that he is and does should be a direct outgrowth of salvation. So salvation is not an end in itself, but a means to an end—a life lived for the glory of God by the power of God.

What are some other things that Jesus does for His people?

Many answers are possible. Jesus said that His people will be very fruitful as we abide in Him (John 15:5). Peter tells us that we should be holy in all we do (which, of course, includes our thoughts and words) (1 Pet. 1:14–16).

See Bible Truths for Christian Growth numbers 68–69 for more information.

Faithful Follower

Introduce the Faithful Follower

Introduce the music of George Frederick Handel. Play a sample of music from Handel's *Messiah* (optional). Explain that this oratorio is a collection of musical pieces based primarily on the prophecies about Christ in the Old Testament. It is Handel's best-known composition, and although written more than two centuries ago, this masterpiece is still widely performed all over the world.

Distribute a half sheet of paper to each student.

Teach for Understanding

Read or tell the following account based on the life of George Frederick Handel. Listening question: What did Handel understand about salvation? He understood that God is the one who saves and that a person must come to God through Christ.

Music That Celebrates Salvation

From the time he was young, George Frederick Handel possessed not only a rare talent for music, but also a quick temper. When he was eighteen years old, Handel challenged another young man to a duel in a fit of anger.

"There! There! Hah! Not fast enough, Matheson, not quite fast enough," Handel said as he lunged with his sword.

"We'll see who is fast enough," Matheson replied. With a quick, skilled maneuver, he swept aside Handel's sword, causing him to drop it. Matheson thrust his own sword toward Handel's defenseless chest, but much to his surprise, it stopped.

"Are you wearing armor, man?" Matheson said, panting. "Or are you immortal?"

Handel shook his head in amazement. "No, not immortal, just very fortunate. See? This button prevented your blade from killing me."

What do we know about what was happening to Mary? Her pregnancy was the fulfillment of Isaiah 7:14 (a prophecy that had been given about seven hundred years earlier).

Joseph and Mary were no doubt excited about this news that was heard for the first time ever. In contrast, we have heard about this event over and over again, and, perhaps because of the repetition, we are no longer thrilled by the miraculous nature of this fulfillment. Imagine that this is the first time you were ever hearing this. What would you say to God? Take time to thank Him for His eternal lovingkindness toward His children in providing the Savior.

Worktext page 93

Locate information in the Bible and identify prophecies given and prophecies fulfilled.

LESSON 63 Faithful Follower: George Frederick Handel

Materials

- A short selection from a recording of Handel's *Messiah*
- A half sheet of lined paper [E]

Music

Review the song and develop higher-order thinking skills by asking application questions.

Matheson shook his head as well. "By all rights you should be a dead man. No longer will I hold my grudge against you. Any man who could escape death as you have must be protected by the very hand of God!"

Handel believed that the Lord spared his life for a reason—to write, compose, and perform music. As he grew older, George Frederick Handel composed many pieces of beautiful music. Handel's music became so popular that King George I of England appointed him as royal musician in the kingdom. Handel served the king faithfully for many years, composing pieces of music such as the "Water Music Suite" and "Music for the Royal Fireworks."

Then, at age fifty-two, Handel's world came crashing down when he had a stroke that left his right arm and hand paralyzed. In hopes of being healed, he decided to go to the hot springs at Aix-la-Chapelle (äks' lä shä pěl') (the German city known today as Aachen).

Handel's doctor was not in favor of the idea. "You may be a great musician, George, but I am a physician, and I know more about these matters than you. Your insistence on remaining in the healing waters for nine hours at a time is absurd. Staying in the hot springs for more than three hours at a time could kill a man."

Handel shrugged his shoulders. "Then I shall die."

"Oh!" The doctor threw up his hands in disgust.

Handel motioned to his right hand hanging limply by his side. "I am half-dead already! With my right hand paralyzed, I can no longer compose music or play my beloved instruments." He sighed wearily. "What else is there for me to do at my age—become a one-armed cobbler?" He shook his head. "No. I will remain in the waters until I feel strength returning to my arm and hand. And if I die, I shall lose nothing and at least gain eternity."

The doctor sighed. "Since you are so intent on this foolishness, I can do nothing but wish you well." He pointed a finger at Handel. "But if you leave the baths alive and well, it will be a miracle!"

God did surprise them both! Handel's arm and hand healed completely. Even though he was able to write and compose once more, he was still without a job. He had lost his position as royal musician when he became paralyzed. Without a steady job to keep his musical skills sharp, Handel became deeply discouraged.

"Why should God permit my resurrection, only to allow my fellow men to bury me again?" he asked himself one night as he climbed the stairs to his friend's apartment.

His friend Sam greeted him at the door. "I am glad to see you return, Handel."

Handel sank into a chair. "I wish I could say the same."

"I'm sorry to see you so downcast. Perhaps reading these manuscripts will lift your spirits. They came today from Charles Jennens." He handed Handel the manuscripts.

Handel took them and noticed a note attached. Aloud he read, "The Lord gave the Word. Please begin at once!"

A little irritated, Handel said, "Does he have the nerve to think he was inspired by God? Otherwise, why would he say 'the Lord gave the Word'?"

However, at his friend's urging, Handel began reading the manuscripts. As he read, his interest rose until he became engrossed in the words, which came mostly from Scripture.

"Sam! Bring me my writing materials—quickly, before the inspiration leaves!"

"But it is growing late."

"I must start now. God alone has brought me to this place, and now I must write!"

Handel wrote with an intensity he never had before. He wrote the music for these wonderful lyrics about God's glory and His plan of redemption on the cross. After twenty-four days of writing almost nonstop, Handel completed his greatest oratorio, *Messiah*.

On April 13, 1742, in Dublin, Ireland, Handel conducted the first public performance. A year later, *Messiah* was performed in London. There is a tradition that King George II attended and stood when he heard "The Hallelujah Chorus." He might have been very moved by the music, or perhaps he stood as an indication of his submission to the King of Kings. The whole audience rose as well, and audiences today still stand during "The Hallelujah Chorus."

After Handel had completed his work, he wrote this prayer of thanksgiving: "My God and my Savior! Thou alone hast brought this music into being. Thou who hast sent Thine only Son to die for our sins, hast also power to save to the uttermost them that come to Thee through Him. Hallelujah!"



- **How did God spare Handel's life on two different occasions?** **He used a button to keep him from being killed in a sword fight, and He spared him from dying in the hot springs.**
 - **Why was Handel still discouraged after the healing of his paralyzed arm and hand?** **He had no job.**
 - **What opportunity did God give Handel after he had been healed?** **His friend gave him some manuscripts about God's glory and His plan of redemption on the cross, and Handel wrote music to go along with the words.**
 - **In his prayer of thanksgiving, what did Handel say God had the power to do?** **to save to the uttermost those who come to Him through Christ**
 - **What did Handel understand about salvation?** **He understood that God is the one who saves and that a person must come to God through Christ.**
- Explain that it is very possible for a person to understand the mechanics or the steps of salvation without ever actually trusting in Jesus Christ. We are not saved by knowing about salvation but by putting our faith in the Savior (**Eph. 2:8**). If possible, allow time for students to write their own prayers of thanks.
- **If you were to write a short prayer of thanks to God for salvation, what would you write?**

Message from the Lord
Isaiah 7:14–16

Name _____

Some messages of prophecy had a meaning for the distant future as well as the immediate future. God gave Isaiah a message to deliver to King Ahaz, the king of Judah, as the king prepared for battle. The meaning for the immediate future was that the two enemy kings would be defeated before a newborn son would be old enough to discern good and evil. Unwisely, King Ahaz refused to believe God and be established in his faith. Years later this decision would contribute to the captivity of Judah by the Assyrians. Isaiah's message to King Ahaz was also a prophecy to the house of David for the distant future.

Read Isaiah 7:14. Complete the three prophecies about the promised Messiah in this verse.

1. The mother will be a virgin
2. The baby will be a boy or son
3. His name will be Immanuel

Answer the questions.

4. Ahaz did not accept the message God sent through Isaiah. In the New Testament, what group of religious people rejected Christ as the promised Messiah?
Answers may vary but should include the Jews or Jewish leaders.
5. Did keeping the laws of Moses provide salvation for these people? no
6. Does keeping the laws of Moses and doing good provide salvation for people today? no



Did You Know?

Sacrifices to God were offered on altars to show faith in a Savior to come. The Old Testament sacrifices represented Christ, the Lamb of God, who was to die for sinners (John 1:29).

God gave His people a variety of pictures through which He revealed His plan of salvation before the coming of Christ. Obedience to the law did not bring salvation.

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94 Lesson 63

Redemption: God's Grand Design

Scripture-Filled Music
Name _____

The book of Psalms is the hymnbook of the Israelites. Each hymn was set to a particular tune and sung during worship, feasts, and times of rejoicing. Many choruses and hymns that we sing today have words that come directly from Scripture.

Each music note contains a section of text from the oratorio *The Messiah*. Write the Scripture reference used for each text.

1 Corinthians 15:57
Isaiah 53:6
John 1:29
Isaiah 40:1–2
Luke 2:14

Luke 2:14

John 1:29

Isaiah 40:1–2

Isaiah 53:6

1 Corinthians 15:57

Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will toward men.

Behold the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sins of the world.

Comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned.

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

But thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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Redemption: God's Grand Design

95 Lesson 63

Worktext page 94

Develop further understanding of the memory verse.

Worktext page 95

Locate information in the Bible. (Optional: Play more of Handel's *Messiah* as the students complete this page.)

LESSON

64

Thoughts of Peace

Materials

- Recording of the recitative "Behold, a Virgin Shall Conceive" from Handel's *Messiah* [O]
- Two 2" × 12" strips of construction paper (one red and one green) [E, O]

Music

Review the song for this unit and develop higher-order thinking skills by asking application questions.

Memory Verse: Isaiah 7:14

Practice the memory verse. Select a student to read aloud Matthew 1:23. Ask the students how this verse is related to **Isaiah 7:14**. It is a direct quote to show that what was taking place was

the fulfillment of a prophecy God made about seven hundred years before. Ask volunteers to recite **Isaiah 7:14**. Ask volunteers to say as much of **Matthew 1:23** as they can.

Application Story

Introduce the Application Story

Discuss **Isaiah 9:6**. After reading the verse aloud, point out that it is another prophecy about the birth of Jesus Christ.

- What names of God or Christ are given in this verse? **Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace**

Give the students the opportunity to tell how each name is descriptive of Christ.

Teach for Understanding

Read or tell the following story to the students, explaining that it is the first part of a story that will be concluded in a later lesson in this unit. Listening question: **What facts about God did Mom remind Kaitlyn of while they were eating supper?**

God is good, great, and wise. God knows what is best. He loves them and will always do what is right.

Thoughts of Peace (Part 1)

Kaitlyn braced her feet against the back of the desk in front of hers. She couldn't take her eyes away from the whiteboard, where her teacher, Mrs. Gresham, had written the words *Prince of Peace*.

"The Bible says Jesus is the Prince of Peace," Mrs. Gresham had told them. "He has made peace with God for us. We needed someone to do that for us because we are sinners and are against God. He also promises to give us peace. Peace is one of the aspects of the fruit of the Spirit—one of the qualities His Spirit gives to us when He comes to live inside us."

After school, Kaitlyn went out to the car where her mother was waiting for her. "Are we going straight to the hospital now?" she asked.

"Yes," said Mom. "The doctor told me the best thing for your daddy would be to have good company on the night before his surgery—to take his mind off things."

Kaitlyn thought for a moment. "Do you think Daddy's scared?"

Mom sensed that Kaitlyn herself was a little fearful. She looked over and wanted to gently brush her hand through Kaitlyn's hair. "I think the Lord is answering our prayers and giving Daddy peace," she said. "Remember the promise we're focusing on as we face this? 'Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.'"

Kaitlyn nodded. She and Mom had been memorizing **Isaiah 26:3** together. It went along with what Mrs. Gresham had said earlier. "Jesus is the Prince of Peace." Kaitlyn tried to keep going over the verse in her mind as they drove on.

The lobby of the hospital was brightly decorated for Christmas. Garlands spiraled around the pillars on each side of the room, and a big wreath strung with lights hung on the front of the receptionist's desk. Two large red poinsettias sat on the desktop in a pot wrapped with green foil, with presents dressed in cheery Christmas scenes neatly arranged on the side. Kaitlyn admired all the color, but it didn't lift her spirits to feel as bright as the season.

Kaitlyn and her mom rode the elevator up to her dad's room on the second floor. He was sitting up in bed reading, and he smiled and laid his book aside when they walked in.

"You're a sight for sore eyes," he said. "Not that Hudson Taylor isn't fine company." He pointed to the biography at his bedside. "But I was just wishing for someone from this century—preferably the two women I love most." He winked at Kaitlyn.

Kaitlyn smiled. "How do you feel, Daddy?"

"I feel great right now. A little hungry, but other than that, I'm fine."

They kept talking, but no one mentioned the surgery. The nurse brought Dad's medicine and took him out for another test. Kaitlyn and Mom went downstairs to eat supper in the hospital cafeteria.

"Daddy seems to be in a really good mood," said Kaitlyn.

"Yes." Mom smiled. "He even told me this afternoon that he got to talk to one of the nurses about the Lord."

Kaitlyn sipped her chocolate milk on and off for several minutes without speaking. Finally she asked the question she didn't want to think about but couldn't escape ever since they had found out that Daddy needed surgery. "Mom," she started with her eyes getting teary, "is there a chance that Daddy could . . . die tomorrow?"

Mom reached over and took Kaitlyn's hand. "Honey, heart surgery is very serious," she said. "And yes, there is always that possibility. But your dad is strong, and the doctors have given him a good chance of coming through it successfully."

"But let's do this," Mom said. Kaitlyn could tell Mom was confident and had a sense of peace. "Let's not focus on what might happen, Katie. Let's focus on God. He is good, great, and wise all the time. He loves us and will always do for us and give us what is right for us."

Kaitlyn watched Mom's face. It was as calm and reassuring as her voice. Kaitlyn knew Mom was really trusting God.

"It's really true, isn't it Mom?" Katie said. "What that verse says. If only we can just keep thinking those thoughts about God and believe them, we really can have peace, can't we?"

Mom squeezed her hand. "That's right, Honey. Our faith will produce the right thoughts, and thinking right thoughts will produce the right emotions. What we feel is a good indicator of whether or not we're believing what God said. So let's keep thinking those thoughts—trusting thoughts. Now let's go back up and see Daddy."



- ➊ Sometimes we need to trust God to help us do right. Other times we need to trust God for things to turn out right. Which situation is Kaitlyn in? **She needs to trust God for things to turn out right.**
- ➋ Some of the titles Christ is given include Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. Do any of these titles indicate that everything will always work out the way we want them to? **no**
- ➌ What can we learn about God from these titles? **He is always in control and will help us through all situations.**
- ➍ What name of Jesus was a comfort to Kaitlyn and why? **Prince of Peace because she needed Jesus to give her peace about her dad's heart surgery**
- ➎ What does Kaitlyn's memory verse say that the Lord will do? **The Lord will keep those who trust Him and think on Him in perfect peace.**
- ➏ What facts about God did Mom remind Kaitlyn of while they were eating supper? **God is good, great, and wise. God knows what is best. He loves them and will always do what is right.**
- ➐ What are some smaller, everyday things God wants you to trust in Him for?

The Prince of Peace

Name _____



Read the following Scriptures and match each verse or passage with the corresponding sentence.

- F** 1. You are valuable to God so don't be anxious about your needs; He will take care of you.
D 2. Go to God, those of you who are carrying heavy burdens, and He will give you rest.
C 3. God gives His people peace and promises to guard their hearts and minds in Jesus.
G 4. Give your anxieties to God because He cares for you.
A 5. There is no fear in love because true love eliminates fear.
B 6. Rather than becoming anxious, pray with a thankful heart to God.
E 7. Fear is not from God, but love and a sound mind are from God.



- A. 1 John 4:18
B. Philippians 4:6
C. Philippians 4:7
D. Matthew 11:28–30
E. 2 Timothy 1:7
F. Matthew 6:25–27
G. 1 Peter 5:7



8. Jesus is the Prince of Peace. List some situations in which you have been anxious and did not trust God to give you comfort and peace. How did you feel?

9. List some ways you have trusted God to give you peace.

10. How could you help someone going through a scary time since you know the Prince of Peace and what He tells us in His Word? You may use Romans 15:4, 13 for help.

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Lesson 64

Redemption: God's Grand Design

Take the Name of Jesus with You

Name _____



Read the following verses and explain how Jesus as God fits each of the descriptions listed in Isaiah 9:6.

1. Wonderful Counselor (Exod. 34:6–7; Ps. 32:8)

Jesus, who is merciful, gracious, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, faithfulness, and forgiveness, teaches us in righteousness through His Word.

2. Mighty God (Zeph. 3:17)

The blood of Christ saves from sin.

3. Everlasting Father (Isa. 40:28–29)

Jesus is eternal and is the Father of eternity. He is the Creator. He never gets tired. He understands us better than we understand Him. He gives us strength.

4. Prince of Peace (Rom. 5:1)

Jesus has given believers peace with God the Father.

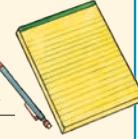


What About Me?



Using the names for Christ given above, write out one scenario you may face in the future when these characteristics of Christ may be a comfort to you. The first one is done as an example.

Wonderful Counselor when I need wisdom about which job to take



Mighty God _____

Everlasting Father _____

Prince of Peace _____

Which characteristic of Christ are you most thankful for this week? Why?

Redemption: God's Grand Design

Lesson 64

97

Art Connection (optional)

Make a promise chain. Encourage each student to find at least two promises in God's Word. Direct them to write each promise on one side and the reference on the other side of a strip of construction paper; then direct all the students to loop their strips together as links to make a promise chain to hang in the classroom.

God promises to guide me.

front

Psalm 32:8

back



Worktext pages 96–97

(Note: These pages may be saved for use with Lesson 65 to allow time for in-depth discussion.)

Understand commands and principles of Scripture

regarding peace. Read aloud the Bible verses on page 96, and discuss what God says about anxiety and peace in a Christian's life. Point out that when it comes to having the peace that God offers, knowing the Bible is good, but each Christian must believe what it says and trust Christ in day-to-day life. Give the students time to answer the questions at the bottom of the page.

Make a personal evaluation of trusting aspects of Christ's nature.

Read the verses on page 97 together, and discuss what God reveals about Himself through the titles given to Christ. Instruct each student to write what he understands about God from the verses. Encourage the students to complete the "What About Me?" section at home and write about how to trust God for the future.

Materials

- Chart 20 (“God’s Word—Major Prophets”)
- Bible book cards (Major Prophets)

Background Information

Isaiah (The Messianic Prophet)

Isaiah was sent by God to preach to Judah so that the people would turn back to God. Like most prophets, he warned sinners of God’s coming judgment. The nation would fall, but only a small number of godly people would return. In prophesying about Christ the Messiah, he spoke of Christ’s birth, power, suffering, rejection, judgment, and death, as well as Israel’s response to Him. All of Isaiah’s prophecies about Christ’s first coming came true.

Jeremiah (The Weeping Prophet)

Jeremiah was sent to Jerusalem to tell the people to turn from their sin to avoid judgment. The people would not listen, and Jeremiah cried over their stubbornness.

Lamentations (Sorrow for God’s People)

To lament means to weep or mourn over something. Jeremiah wrote Lamentations about what had happened in Jerusalem. All of Jerusalem—including the great temple built for worshiping God—had been destroyed. Although Jeremiah was sad, he thanked God for His mercy and hope for the future.

Ezekiel (The Watchman Prophet)

As punishment for Judah, God sent an army from Babylon to attack Judah and to take the Jews as prisoners or exiles. Ezekiel, the prophet, was one of the prisoners. God used him as a watchman to encourage and comfort other captives. He also warned the people about more punishment if they continued to do wrong.

Daniel (The Consistent Prophet)

Daniel, like Ezekiel, was taken as a prisoner to Babylon, where he served the king. The king of Babylon did not worship the true God, but Daniel did and never gave up because God is King over all kings. God revealed Himself as the one who controls the rise and fall of all kingdoms.

Teach for Understanding

Review the Major Prophets. Select students to read each book name and theme from Worktext page 276. Display Chart 20 (“God’s Word—Major Prophets”). Share the background information for Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, and Daniel (optional).

Practice the sequence of the Major Prophets. Remind the students that knowing the books that come before and after each book in the Bible is helpful when looking up Bible verses. Display the Bible book cards for the Major Prophets. Explain that when you cover one of the bottom corners, the students should tell the book that comes before and the book that comes after the book named at the top.

Christ, the Key to the Prophecies

Unit 4b

PREVIEW

Doctrines

- **66–67:** The Bible is accurate in its prophecy (Num. 23:19).
- **66–67:** The Bible is accurate in its history (John 17:17).
- **66–67:** Christ became human (incarnation) (John 1:14).

Skills and Applications

- Learn Galatians 4:4–5
- Read a timeline
- Use cross-references
- Recall facts and details
- Identify parallel accounts
- Determine in your heart to serve others
- Realize what it cost Christ to humble Himself to become human
- Study the plan of salvation
- Develop an appreciation of art
- Understand that Christ's purpose in coming was to save sinners
- Recognize Christ's fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah
- Apply Bible knowledge to everyday life

LESSON

66

The Birth of a King

Materials

- Timeline and picture of the birth of Christ

Music

Review the song and develop higher-order thinking skills by asking application questions.

Memory Verses: Galatians 4:4–5

Principle: In His perfect time, God sent Jesus Christ to earth to redeem humanity. Locate Galatians 4:4–5 and read the verses aloud.

❸ Why do you think 4:4 says that Christ was born of a woman and does not mention a man? His birth was miraculous as He was born of a virgin. Being born of a woman means that He truly was human.

❹ What does it mean that Jesus was born under or subject to the law? He was born a Jew and was required to keep the law of Moses just like all other Jews.

Explain that God planned for Jesus to take on a human form so He could keep the law perfectly. In so doing He earned eternal life, rather than deserving the wages of sin. That way He could legally die in the place of every sinful human to redeem each of them. Now He legitimately gives sinners, on the basis of our faith, the eternal life He earned. See Bible Truths for Christian Growth questions 52–74 for more information. Choose several students to take turns reading aloud **Galatians 4:4–5**. Direct the students to mark the location with their Unit 4 bookmarks and to highlight the verses in their Bibles (optional).

Bible Account

Preview Background Information

Herod the Great

Numerous rulers had *Herod* as part of their names, but Herod the Great was the ruler over an area of Judea that became part

of the Roman Empire. Rome valued peace and order, so when Herod put down a Galilean rebellion, Rome took notice of his abilities. In gratitude, the Roman Senate gave Herod the title “King of the Jews.” However the Jews did not willingly accept Herod—he was an outsider and an Idumean (from Edom) whose family was forcibly converted to Judaism during the period after the Maccabean revolt. Herod ruled ruthlessly and maintained control over all the major institutions of the Jews. Herod renovated the capital city, Jerusalem, and built the third temple there. Jesus was probably born in 4 BC, a few years before Herod’s death. Herod died not long after giving the order to kill all of the baby boys in Bethlehem.

The Star

Scientists have attempted to explain the star over Bethlehem as a comet, a supernova, or a conjunction of planets, but these explanations are unsatisfactory. God, who created and controls all of His creation, miraculously used this star to lead the wise men to Christ.

The Magi

The wise men, or Magi, were from somewhere in the East. They were probably Gentiles who held positions of authority in their country. The name *Magi* means that they were astronomers. According to tradition, there were three wise men. This idea is based on the fact that three gifts were presented to Jesus. The Bible, however, does not mention how many Magi there were. It is also probable that other people were traveling with them.

Introduce the Bible Account

Discuss Micah 5:2. Read Micah 5:2 aloud, explaining that it was written about eight centuries before the birth of Christ.

- **What city did Micah prophesy that the Messiah would be born in? Bethlehem**
- ➲ **How do we know from this passage that Micah is talking about the Messiah and not just any ruler? The last part of the verse tells us that this ruler is the eternal God.**

Explain that the Jews were looking for this Messiah at the time that Christ was born. But most people were not expecting the Messiah to be born in such a humble way as Christ was.

Teach for Understanding

Read Matthew 2:1–8 and Luke 2:1–20 or use the following retelling of the passages. Listening question: What did Herod tell the wise men that he wanted to do? that he wanted to worship the new king

The Birth of a King

Caesar Augustus, the Roman emperor, had ordered that all people go to the home of their ancestors to be counted in a census for taxation. Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem, the hometown of Joseph’s family.

The time was drawing near for Mary’s baby to be born. While they were in Bethlehem, Mary’s child, the promised Messiah, was born in a stable because Joseph and Mary had been unable to find a room in an inn that night. When the

baby was born, Mary wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, a feeding trough for animals. Isaiah’s prophecy about Christ’s birth had come to pass: “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace” (**Isa. 9:6**).

The angel of the Lord appeared to some shepherds who were watching over their sheep in a nearby field and said, “Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people” (**Luke 2:10**). What was that good news? A Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord, was born for them that day in the city of David.

The angel told them they would find the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. The shepherds went to Bethlehem and found everything just as the angel had said. They went out to spread the news about the holy child that had been born. Then they returned to their sheep, glorifying and praising God for all that they had seen and heard.

Mary and Joseph remained in Bethlehem for a time after Jesus was born. While they were there, wise men from the East arrived in Jerusalem, asking about the one who had been born King of the Jews. They had seen His star in the East and had come to find Him and to worship Him.

But that news troubled King Herod. Not only was he proud, he was also insecure. He knew that he himself was not God’s appointed king of the Jews. Who was this King the wise men were looking for?

King Herod called the chief priests and scribes together and demanded that they tell him where the Messiah was supposed to be born. They replied that the prophet Micah had prophesied the birth would occur in Bethlehem.

Herod called the wise men in and secretly questioned them about the star and exactly when they had seen it. Then he told them to go to Bethlehem and to be diligent in finding the young child and then to come back to tell him. He lied and said that he also wanted to go worship the new king.

-
- **What event caused Mary and Joseph to go to Bethlehem in fulfillment of Micah’s prophecy? Caesar Augustus ordered everyone to go to his ancestors’ home city so that a census for taxation could be taken; Joseph’s ancestors were from Bethlehem.**
 - ➲ **Where would you expect a future king to be born? Many answers are acceptable.**
 - ➲ **Why do you think God allowed His Son to be born under these difficult conditions? Accept reasonable answers, but point out that Jesus Christ came not to reign, but to serve.**
 - ➲ **In what ways can Christians today follow the shepherds’ example? They should tell others about the Savior; they should be thankful and praise God for the gift of His Son.**
 - **How did the wise men know that a King had been born? The Bible tells us that they had seen His star in the East.** Share the background information about the star and the Magi.

Promised Redemption

Galatians 4:4–5

Name _____

The Jews had waited for centuries for the promised Messiah to come. Their salvation rested in their faith that the animals they were sacrificing represented the Savior that God would one day send to redeem them from sin. God established the laws of offering sacrifices not to provide salvation, but to foreshadow the Lamb who would come Christ, as the perfect sacrifice, fulfilled every requirement set by God and provided redemption from sin.

fullness	obedience	adopted	time	woman
law	born	kept	redeem	children

Use words from the box above to complete each sentence.

- In Paul's letter to the Galatians, he wrote that God planned to send His Son when the **fullness** of **time** had come.
- For Christ to live as a human, He had to be **born** of a **woman**. That woman was Mary.
- As a man, Christ had to live in **obedience** to the **law** of Moses. God had established these laws to show humans their sin. Christ **kept** all of these laws.
- As the perfect Lamb of God, Christ gave Himself to **redeem** people from their sins.
- God is the heavenly Father of all believers. Christians are **adopted/born** as **children** into the family of God.



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98 Lesson 66

Redemption: God's Grand Design

Prophecy Fulfilled

Using Cross-References



Name _____

Cross-references are useful when studying prophecies in Scripture. A passage fulfilling a prophecy usually has a cross-reference to the verses stating the prophecy.

The birth of Jesus

2 AND IT came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

2 *(And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)*

3 And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (*because he was of the house and lineage of David.*)

5 To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

6 And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

7 And *she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.*

The angels and the shepherds

8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, *which shall be all people.*

11 *For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.*

12 And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

13 *b* And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

14 *c* Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

2:2 Acts 3:37

2:3 1 Sam. 16:1

2:4 Mat. 1:16

2:5 Mat. 1:25

2:6 1 Cor. 1:12

2:7 1 Tim. 1:23

2:8 Gen. 12:3

2:9 Gen. 28:19

2:10 Mark 1:15

2:11 Col. 1:23

2:12 1 Cor. 1:1

2:13 1 Thes. 2:16

2:14 Gen. 1:21

2:15 Gen. 1:16

2:16 Acts 2:26

2:17 Phil. 2:11

2:18 Gen. 28:12

2:19 Ps. 103:20

2:20 Gen. 37:31

2:21 ch. 1:66

2:22 Gen. 37:11

2:23 ch. 1:14

2:24 Gen. 17:12

2:25 Lev. 12:3

2:26 Gen. 1:21,25

2:27 ch. 1:31

2:28 1 Cor. 12:2

2:29 Gen. 1:45

2:30 Gen. 1:31

2:31 1 Cor. 13:2

2:32 Gen. 3:13

2:33 Gen. 3:19

2:34 Gen. 3:22

2:35 Gen. 3:22

2:36 Gen. 3:22

2:37 Gen. 3:22

2:38 Gen. 3:22

2:39 Gen. 3:22

2:40 Gen. 3:22

2:41 Gen. 3:22

2:42 Gen. 3:22

2:43 Gen. 3:22

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2:68 Gen. 3:22

2:69 Gen. 3:22

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2:71 Gen. 3:22

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Materials

- Chart 10 (“Masterwork: *The Flight into Egypt*”)

Music

Review the song and develop higher-order thinking skills by asking application questions.

Memory Verses: Galatians 4:4–5

Practice the memory verses. Read Galatians 4:4–5 to the students.

- What does 4:5 say that Christians receive from Christ? **adoption as God's children**
- How do people get to be the recipients of Christ's adoption? **by trusting in Christ for their salvation**

Read aloud **John 1:12**. Direct each student to read the memory verses silently and then to a partner.

Bible Account

Preview Background Information

The Wise Men’s Gifts

Gold, frankincense, and myrrh were all gifts fit for a king. Frankincense and myrrh were both expensive fragrances. Frankincense was often used in worship, and myrrh was used in embalming.

Jeremiah 31:15 and Hosea 11:1

Both of these verses refer to more than one event. Jeremiah’s prophecy concerning Rachel’s grief over her lost children referred first to the Babylonian captivity. Many Jewish children were killed when Judah was taken captive by Babylon. But Matthew relates the prophecy also to the deaths of Bethlehem’s children at the hands of Herod. Hosea’s words, “I . . . called my son out of Egypt,” were directed to the nation of Israel and refer back to the Exodus of the Jews from Egypt in the days of Moses. But the words take on even greater significance when Matthew quotes them in relation to Christ as God’s Son.

Nazareth

Nazareth was the town Mary and Joseph lived in before they went to Bethlehem. It was an obscure town in Galilee and was looked down on by many of the Jews. The Roman government had a military post there. People from Nazareth were despised because they lived in the same town with the enemy soldiers. Jesus was no exception. After He grew into manhood, He too would be despised for His lowly background, as Isaiah foretold: “He is despised and rejected of men; . . . and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not” (**Isa. 53:3**). When Philip first met Jesus and became his disciple, he went and found Nathanael and invited him to come and meet the Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth. Nathanael reflected the typical Jewish attitude about Nazareth when he asked Philip if anything good could come out of Nazareth (**John 1:45–46**).

Introduce the Bible Account

Review the previous Bible account.

- How did the wise men get their direction to go toward Jerusalem? **They followed a star that they had seen in the East.**
- What information did King Herod give the wise men about the child they were seeking? **that He was to have been born in Bethlehem, according to the prophets**
- What did Herod ask the wise men to do when they had found the child? **return and tell him where to find the child so that he could worship Him also**
- Do you think Herod really intended to worship Jesus? **no**
- What do you think Herod’s plan was? **He viewed Jesus as a rival and planned to get rid of Him.**

Teach for Understanding

Read Matthew 2:9–23 or use the following retelling of the passage. Listening question: **How did God preserve Jesus’ life? An angel told Joseph in a dream to flee with his family to Egypt until the danger was past.**

(Optional: Direct the students’ attention to Masterwork: *The Flight into Egypt* from the Teacher’s Toolkit CD.)

God Protected His Son

The wise men left Herod and journeyed to Bethlehem. The star that they had seen before guided them until it stopped over the house where Mary, Joseph, and Jesus were staying. The wise men rejoiced when they saw that the star had led them to the King they were seeking.

When they came into the house, they saw the child Jesus with Mary. They immediately knelt down and worshiped Him. They presented Him with costly gifts—gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Share the background information about the gifts.

Before the wise men left to return to their own land, God gave them a warning in a dream. He told them not to return to Herod but to take a different route home.

Not long after the wise men had gone away, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and gave him more instructions. Joseph was to take the young child and his mother and escape to Egypt. They were to remain there until the angel told him they could go because Herod wanted to kill the young child.

Joseph obeyed the Lord. He took his family and left that same night.

King Herod was furious when he realized that the wise men had disobeyed him. Then he commanded that all the male children in Bethlehem who were two years old and under must be killed.

Matthew tells us that by giving this order, Herod fulfilled a prophecy (**Jer. 31:15**) that speaks of Rachel weeping over the death of her children. As the wife of Jacob, Rachel was seen by the Jews as one of the “mothers” of their nation. In that sense, the Hebrew boys who were killed in Bethlehem

were Rachel's children, and there was great mourning in Israel because of their deaths.

But God spared His own Son, Jesus. Joseph kept his family in Egypt until the Lord let him know that Herod was dead and Joseph should now take his family back to Israel. In doing so God fulfilled what He said through the prophet Hosea about calling His Son out of Egypt (**Hosea 11:1**).

Joseph brought Mary and the child Jesus back into Israel but was afraid to stay in Judea because Herod's son Archelaus was on the throne. God warned Joseph in a dream, so Joseph took his family back to the region of Galilee to the town of Nazareth.

Share the background information about Nazareth.



- **How did God keep the wise men from reporting to Herod about Jesus? He warned them in a dream to return home by a different route.**
- **How did God preserve Jesus' life? An angel told Joseph in a dream to flee with his family to Egypt until the danger was past.**
- ❖ **Why do you think God chose Egypt as the place to flee? God planned for Jesus to go to Egypt in fulfillment of the prophecy in Hosea 11:1.**
- ❖ **Why do you think Joseph and Mary went to Nazareth when they returned to Israel? It was the town where they used to live. Maybe God told Joseph in his dream exactly where to go. Elicit from the students that God planned for Jesus to live in Nazareth in fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah.**
- ❖ **What does God use to give us direct and objective communication today? His written Word (Ps. 119:105; 2 Tim. 3:16–17)**
- ❖ **Can a desire to do something that is not in agreement with Scripture be from God? No. God directs us through His written Word and expects us to obey it.**

Point out that Jesus Christ did not come to live as a king in the royal city of Jerusalem. He was born in and lived in everyday ordinary places.

- ❖ **Invite volunteers to tell how they came to live where they live now.**

Give the students a brief history of the directions and turns you have faced in your own childhood and adult life that were instrumental to your being who and where you are today. Point out that when you were a child, many of the circumstances were decided by your parents for numerous reasons (physical, family, finances, profession, government, deaths, preferences, etc.).

- ❖ **Who is “in charge” of childrens’ lives? Many times it is their parents or guardians.**

Elicit from students that God is behind all parental decisions for their good. Show the students from Scripture that even though people sin, God is always good and God is always great.

All in God's Plan

Matthew 2:1–23; Luke 2:9–23

Name _____

Often we think that God directs the lives of only Christians. In Colossians, Paul reminds us that God created all things, including governments and rulers. That which God created He continues to maintain and control. It is through God that all things consist or continue. God is omniscient. He knows all things, including the actions of unbelievers.

God used believers, the ungodly, and a miraculous event of nature to fulfill prophecies about the coming Messiah.

Write the name of the person or thing that is speaking.

1. Although I didn't know it, God used me to make a decree that brought Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem (Luke 2:1–5).
Caesar

2. I lovingly wrapped my new Son and laid Him in a manger to sleep (Luke 2:6–7).
Mary

3. We stopped in Jerusalem as we traveled to worship the King of the Jews (Matt. 2:1).
wise men

4. I and others like me came to the shepherds to announce the birth of the Savior (Luke 2:9–14).
angel(s)

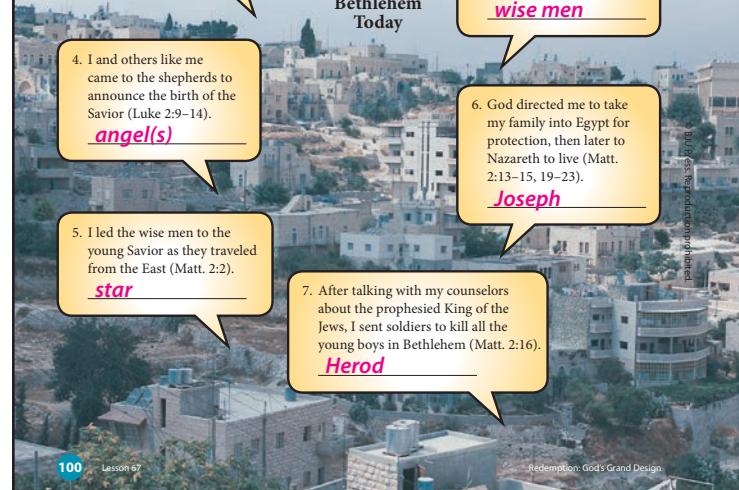
6. God directed me to take my family into Egypt for protection, then later to Nazareth to live (Matt. 2:13–15, 19–23).
Joseph

5. I led the wise men to the young Savior as they traveled from the East (Matt. 2:2).
star

7. After talking with my counselors about the prophesied King of the Jews, I sent soldiers to kill all the young boys in Bethlehem (Matt. 2:16).
Herod

100 Lesson 67

Redemption: God's Grand Design



God is good.

1. God is always up to something good in their lives (Jer. 29:11; Gen. 50:20; Rom. 8:26, 28–29, 31–32).
2. God will always love them personally no matter what (Rom. 8:35–39).

God is likewise always great.

3. God is always in control of all things (Ps. 103:19; Isa. 14:27, 46:9–10).
4. God is always present with His children (Ps. 139:7–12).

Lead the students in a prayer of thanks based on Psalm 103:1–14, 17–22.

For more information about God's good involvement in our lives see Jim Berg's *Quieting a Noisy Soul* or the associated website. Check the bjupress.com BIBLE 6 resources page for links.

Masterwork: *The Flight into Egypt*

Develop an appreciation of art. Read and discuss the information about the Masterwork and the artist of *The Flight into Egypt* from the Teacher's Toolkit CD. Display Chart 10 for reference throughout the unit.

Worktext page 100

Recall details about the Bible account.

Harmony of the Gospels
Parallel Accounts of Christ's Birth

Name _____

 Since the Holy Spirit inspired all four of the Gospel writers, they all agree, but the details and accounts are from differing human perspectives. Reading about an event from two or more authors helps bring the details together for a well-rounded picture. The similarity of the Gospels as they "bring together" details of the life of Christ has come to be called the harmony of the Gospels.

Event	Matthew wrote about Jesus as the promised King.	Mark wrote about Jesus as the suffering King.	Luke wrote about Jesus as the perfect Man.	John wrote about Jesus as the divine Son.
1. Gabriel announces the Messiah's coming birth to Mary.			Luke 1:26-35	
2. Mary visits Elizabeth.			Luke 1:39-56	
3. An angel tells Joseph of the coming birth of the Messiah.	Matt. 1:18-23			
4. A genealogy details the earthly ancestry of Jesus.	Matt. 1:1-17		Luke 3:23-38	
5. Jesus is born in Bethlehem.	Matt. 2:1		Luke 2:1-7	
6. Angels announce the Messiah's birth to the shepherds.			Luke 2:8-20	
7. Jesus is dedicated in the temple.			Luke 2:22-39	
8. Wise men seek the Messiah in Jerusalem.	Matt. 2:1-12			
9. Wise men come to Bethlehem to worship Jesus.	Matt. 2:8-11			
10. Joseph, Mary, and Jesus flee to Egypt.	Matt. 2:13-15			
11. King Herod orders all the male infants in Bethlehem killed.	Matt. 2:16			
12. An angel instructs Joseph to return to Israel.	Matt. 2:19-21			
13. Joseph, Mary, and Jesus settle in Nazareth.	Matt. 2:21-23			

Use the chart to answer the questions.

- Where would you look to read about
 - Mary being told about the Messiah's birth? **Luke 1:26-35**
 - Joseph being told about the Messiah's birth? **Matthew 1:18-23**
 - the shepherds being told about the Messiah's birth? **Luke 2:8-20**
 - the fulfillment of the prophecy that the Messiah would be from Nazareth? **Matthew 2:21-23**
- What list is included in both Matthew and Luke? **the genealogy of Jesus**
the birth of Christ in Bethlehem
- What event did both of these Gospels record? **the birth of Christ in Bethlehem**
- Which Gospels do not record events about the birth of Jesus? **Mark and John**

Redemption: God's Grand Design Lesson 67 101

Worktext page 101

Identify parallel Bible accounts.

LESSON 68 Christ's Purpose in Coming to Earth

Music

Review the song and develop higher-order thinking skills by asking application questions.

Memory Verses: Galatians 4:4-5

Practice the memory verses. Select a student to read Galatians 4:4-5 aloud.

- Read Galatians 4:6. What is one result of being God's child? **The Holy Spirit lives in each Christian.**
- Read 2 Corinthians 3:18. What does the Holy Spirit do for us as we see Christ in the Scriptures? **He changes us so that our lives bring glory to Him.**
- Read 2 Corinthians 9:8. What does the Holy Spirit, who is the Spirit of grace (Heb. 10:29), equip us to do by His grace? **We are fully equipped to do every good work (obedience) that is God's will for us.**

See Bible Truths for Christian Growth numbers 68-69 for more information on sanctification.

Bible Study

Introduce the Bible Study

Discuss reasons for celebrating Christmas.

► **What reasons do non-Christians have for celebrating Christmas?** Possible answers include taking time off from work, giving and receiving gifts, eating good food, and visiting relatives.

► **What is a Christian's primary reason for celebrating Christmas?** to celebrate the coming of the Savior to earth

Point out that all of the hustle and bustle of Christmas can distract us from focusing on why Christ came. The goal of the following Bible study is to help the students focus on the true reason for Christ's coming to earth.

Teach for Understanding

Study Christ's purpose in coming to earth. Assign the following verses to different students to read silently. Allow each student to read his verse aloud and tell why Christ came.

Matthew 1:21 to save His people from their sins

Matthew 5:17 to fulfill the law and the prophets

Matthew 9:13 to call sinners to repentance

Luke 9:56 to save people's lives, not destroy them

Luke 19:10 to seek and to save those who are lost

John 3:16 to give everlasting life to all who believe in Him

John 10:10 to give us abundant life

John 12:46 to be a light to the world, that whoever believes on Him will not remain in darkness

Galatians 4:4-5 to redeem us, that we might receive adoption as His children

1 John 5:20 to give us understanding, that we may know Him who is true and know that we are in Him

Summarize the Bible study by explaining that the reason Jesus came to earth was to save condemned sinners and to give them abundant life now and throughout eternity. Encourage the students to use Christmastime as an opportunity to tell others about the gift of eternal life that Jesus offers.

Drama Connection (optional)

Practice explaining the plan of salvation through role playing. Divide the students into groups of two or three (girls with girls and boys with boys). Direct the students to use their Bibles to role-play explaining the plan of salvation. Suggest that they use verses from the Romans Road (**Rom. 3:23; 6:23; 5:8; 10:9-14a**).

Sent to Be the Savior

Many people talk about the birth of Christ during the Christmas season. This provides opportunities for you to explain the gospel message to unbelievers.

Here are some truths about Christ and His salvation that you can share with others.

Read each Scripture passage. Write what you could say about each passage as you talk about it with an unbeliever.

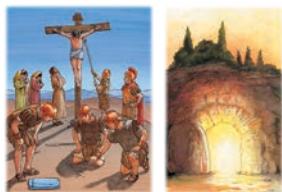
Answers may vary.

Matthew 3:16–17

Christ is God's Son.

God is very pleased with Christ.

Name _____



1 John 4:14

God sent Jesus to be the Savior of the world.

1 Corinthians 15:3–4

Christ died and rose again to provide salvation.



Redemption: God's Grand Design

John 20:31

To accept God's gift of salvation, a person must believe that Jesus Christ is the Savior.

1 John 5:11–12

A person who trusts Christ as Savior will have eternal life.

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Lesson 68

Teach for Understanding

Read or tell the following story. Listening question: What was Kaitlyn's response after the phone call? **She thanked God out loud; she worshiped Him quietly in song.**

Thoughts of Peace (Part 2)

Pastor Shumate stopped by the hospital after supper. Kaitlyn felt braver, somehow, when he walked into the room carrying his Bible and shook each of their hands with his firm grip.

"George, how are you doing tonight?" he asked.

"Good, Pastor," said Dad. He smiled. "My wife and daughter have kept me in stitches by reading me jokes from old *Reader's Digests*." He grinned and patted his chest. "They say laughter is the best medicine."

Pastor smiled back. "Are you up to having more company then?" he asked.

Dad nodded, looking a little puzzled. Pastor Shumate went back to the doorway and motioned to someone Dad couldn't see. In a moment, they heard the sounds of people singing "O Come, All Ye Faithful," and one by one, choir members from their church filed into the room, still singing. Some had brought their families along. Kaitlyn waved to her friend Sonja. She looked over at Dad. He was grinning and joining in the carol.

Kaitlyn clapped when the choir had finished, and Dad said, "Amen." The song leader, Mr. McNeil, stepped forward. "We were planning to carol at some nursing homes this evening. But when we found out you would be here, we decided to stop by your room first. We won't stay long, but it would be wonderful to read some Scripture and then pray together."

Pastor Shumate read **Psalm 23** aloud; then he turned to **Isaiah 26** and read **verses 3 and 4**. Kaitlyn squeezed Mom's hand when he read their verse.

After Pastor prayed, Mr. McNeil began singing "Silent Night" very quietly, and the choir members took the cue and harmonized with him. Kaitlyn and her mom joined in too. The quietness of the song seemed to fill the entire room and silence all other sounds. Kaitlyn felt quietness and peace inside too, especially as they softly sang the last words, "Sleep in heavenly peace."

The next morning Mom thought it would be best for Kaitlyn to go to school as usual. At breakfast, Mom said, "There will be nothing for you to do at the hospital, Honey. At least at school you'll have work to keep you busy. I'll come pick you up as soon as Daddy's surgery is over." She kissed the top of Kaitlyn's head. "Pray for him, Honey," she said. "And remember our verse."

Mrs. Gresham had not erased the words *Prince of Peace* from the whiteboard. Kaitlyn found herself glancing at them again and again throughout the morning as she worked math problems, did a reading worksheet, and practiced her spelling words. "Dear Jesus, please help Daddy through this surgery," she prayed silently. "And please help me to keep trusting You and thinking thoughts of peace."

Worktext page 102

Understand verses concerning salvation.

LESSON
69

Thoughts of Peace

Music

Review the song and develop higher-order thinking skills by asking application questions.

Memory Verses: Galatians 4:4–5

Practice the memory verses. Ask for volunteers to recite and summarize the verses.

Application Story

Introduce the Application Story

Review Part 1 of the application story from Lesson 64.

Choose a student to summarize what happened in the first part of the story. Select a student to read aloud **Isaiah 26:3**, the verse that Kaitlyn and her mother had been memorizing.

- Which name of Christ had taken on a special meaning for Kaitlyn? **Prince of Peace**

What Does God Say About Serving Others?

Name _____



You live in a "me first" world. Many around you say that you should please yourself. Being selfish is a temptation you will face every day of your life. However, **selfishness is sin** and will lead only to an empty, lonely life.

You may have heard of someone becoming **depressed**. This means that a person has an attitude of unhappiness that comes from hopelessly focusing on himself. God's Word gives us the remedy for this kind of depression: living to love and please God by becoming a humble servant to Him and others.

Look up **humble, humility, and servant** in the glossary. Combine the definitions to write a description of a servant who would be pleasing to God.

Answers will vary but should describe a person who is meek or modest, is without pride, and works for others.

The Bible gives you a perfect example of a humble servant. Jesus willingly gave up His exalted position in heaven to become a human being who experienced hunger, thirst, and pain because He loves you.

Read **Philippians 2:5–11**. Mark each statement as **T** for true or **F** for false. Also, write the number of the verse that supports your answer.

T	1. My attitude should imitate Christ's attitude. (2: <u>5</u>)	T	5. God exalted Jesus above everything else. (2: <u>9</u>)
F	2. Jesus did not have equality with God. (2: <u>6</u>)	T	6. Everyone will bow before Jesus. (2: <u>10</u>)
T	3. Jesus became a human and a humble servant. (2: <u>7</u>)	F	7. Some people will not confess that Jesus is Lord. (2: <u>11</u>)
T	4. Jesus obeyed His Father and died on the cross for you. (2: <u>8</u>)		

Where should your focus be? Focusing on yourself leads to emptiness. Focusing on loving and pleasing God by serving Him and others is the key to true joy. Ask God to live His life in you and give you the same attitude that Christ had (Gal. 2:20; Luke 9:23–24).

What About Me?



Take time at home to think about the condition of your heart. What is your heart really like? Are you self-centered? Or do you look for ways to show that you think more highly of God and others than yourself? Your actions tell others what is in your heart.

Write Proverbs 20:11.
See Proverbs 20:11.

Redemption: God's Grand Design

Lesson 69

103

- ➊ How did God use the church people to encourage Kaitlyn's family? **The choir sang about God's peace; the pastor read Scripture and prayed with them.**
- ➋ How might God want to use you to encourage someone who is facing a difficult trial? **Possible answers include visiting the person, sending him a card, or helping him around the house.**
- ▶ How did God comfort Kaitlyn throughout the day of her dad's surgery? **He brought the Scripture to mind about Jesus being the Prince of Peace.**
- ▶ What was Kaitlyn's response when God answered her prayer for her dad? **She thanked Him out loud; she worshiped Him quietly in song.**

Worktext page 103

(Note: This page may be saved for use with Lesson 70 to allow time for in-depth discussion.)

Develop a servant's heart. Read the top of this page and discuss Christ as the perfect example of a servant. Assign the middle of the page (exploring **Phil. 2:5–11**) to be done individually.

Do a personal evaluation of the attitude of the heart regarding servanthood. Encourage the students to read the "What About Me?" section at home and seriously consider the condition of their hearts.

LESSON
70

Unit 4b Activity

Materials

- Display copy of "Joy to the World" or individual copy [E]
- Copy of the Psalm 98 chart from the Activity Pages section of the Teacher's Toolkit CD [O, E]

Background Information

Biblical Texts in Hymns

Church history includes many examples of God's people using psalms (and other portions of the Bible) as rich sources of truth for their worship of God in song. Handel's *Messiah* is a well-known example.

"Joy to the World"

Isaac Watts wrote the now popular Christmas carol "Joy to the World" based on **Psalm 98:4–9**. Verses 1–3 highlight the glory of the Redeemer, with verses 4–9 being the joyful response of the redeemed. The theme is salvation (victory). Though the fulfillment of this psalm will not be realized until the Second Coming of Christ (v. 9), **Psalm 98** is often applied as praise for the salvation Christ brought as the virgin-born baby, Immanuel.

This Christmas carol celebrates with great joy the salvation Jehovah secures for His people and His rule over the earth. The song's current uplifting joyous music has been used with these lyrics since 1839 when Lowell Mason borrowed some musical phrases from Handel's *Messiah* and applied them to this Christmas carol.

Study the biblical basis of a popular carol. Give each student a copy of the words of "Joy to the World" (optional). Sing the

About eleven thirty, a message arrived saying Kaitlyn had a phone call in the school office. Kaitlyn's surroundings were a blur as she hurried down the hallway, but one thought echoed over and over in her mind: "Jesus is the Prince of Peace."

The secretary smiled and handed Kaitlyn the phone. "Hello?" Kaitlyn said as more of a question than a greeting.

Mom's voice had a smile in it. "Honey, your daddy came through the surgery just fine," she said. "He's resting now—sleeping peacefully, the doctor said."

Kaitlyn let out a long sigh of relief. "Thank you, God," she said.

Mom's voice sounded almost giddy with excitement. "I'm coming to get you now, Katie," she said. "We'll stop for lunch on the way, and I'm pretty sure we'll get back here before Daddy's awake. That way we'll see him right away when he wakes up."

Kaitlyn hung up and walked quickly back down the hall to get her coat and books. She was humming, "O come, let us adore Him."



- ➊ What kind of attitude did Kaitlyn's dad have about his surgery? **He was calm and at peace about it.**
- ➋ How was he able to have peace? **He was trusting God to do what was best.**

Unit 4 Review

Christmas: In the Fullness of Time

Name _____

Write the letter of the correct word to complete each sentence.

- F** 1. Christ's birth fulfilled the promise that the throne of ____ would be established forever.
- A** 2. Through the promise made to Adam, the Messiah would have victory over sin and ____.
- E** 3. God promised that all nations would be blessed through a descendant of ____ and Sarah.
- G** 4. Isaiah's prophecy to King Ahaz told that the mother of the Messiah would be a ____.
- C** 5. Isaiah prophesied that the Messiah would be named ____.

Write **T** if the sentence is true and **F** if the sentence is false.

- F** 6. Keeping the laws of Moses provides salvation.
- T** 7. The birth of Christ is recorded in Matthew and Luke.
- T** 8. Since God created all things, He can use any person or circumstance to fulfill His purpose.
- F** 9. The Jews all gladly accepted Jesus as the promised Messiah.
- T** 10. By law, Joseph could have divorced Mary or had her stoned since she was expecting a baby before they married.

Circle the option that makes the sentence correct.

11. The records of Christ's ancestry show that Christ came to earth for ____.
people of all religions people of all nations **all people**
12. Gabriel told Mary that she would give birth to the coming Messiah. Gabriel was ____.
a prophet **an angel** a wise man
13. Joseph was a righteous and kind man. How did he learn the truth about Mary's pregnancy?
from an angel from a wise man by reading the Old Testament
14. We learn from Isaiah's prophecy to King Ahaz that some prophecies have what kind of meanings?
false and true **immediate and future** earthly and otherworldly
15. Who kept all of God's laws perfectly?
Isaiah **Christ** Mary

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Unit Reviews

Bible 6

Lessons 61–70

Unit 4 Review (continued)

Name _____

Write the letter of the correct description.

- B** 16. harmony of the Gospels
D 17. betrothal
A 18. Old Testament sacrifices

19. Write five truths about Christ that you would try to tell someone while witnessing.
You may want to use the following words in your sentences.

sin	Savior	God sent	died and rose again
trust	salvation	accept	eternal life

Answers will vary. Possible answers include that all people sin; God sent Christ, His only Son, to be the Savior; Christ is the Son of God; Christ died and rose again to provide salvation; for salvation, a person must trust in Christ as his personal Savior; and trusting Christ as Savior results in eternal life.

Unit Reviews

Bible 6

Lessons 61–70

first stanza together. Then share the background information about the song. Distribute to each student a copy of the following chart, which correlates the phrases from the first stanza of the song and their source in **Psalm 98**. After students have read the psalm and the other Bible verses that express similar thoughts, ask volunteers to identify phrases from the carol that express similar ideas. (If you prefer, you may choose a different Christmas carol and work with the students to construct a similar chart.)

Psalm 98:4–9	"Joy to the World" Phrases	Related Scriptures
98:4, 9 Make a joyful noise; break forth into joyous song because the Lord is coming.	"Joy to the world! the Lord is come!"	Philippians 4:4 Luke 2:10–11
98:6, 9 The king is coming to judge the earth.	"Let earth receive her King!"	Revelation 19:16 Matthew 2:2
	"Let every heart prepare Him room."	Revelation 3:20 John 1:12
98:7–8 Let the sea roar and all that fills it, the world and those who live in it	"[Let] heaven and nature sing."	Psalm 96:12–13 Psalm 148
98:8 The rivers clap, and the hills sing for joy.		

Unit Review**Materials**

- Copy of the Unit 4 Review from the Teacher's Toolkit CD [E]
- Guide a review of Lessons 61–70.** Review the people and events in preparation for the Unit 4 test (optional). See the Teacher's Toolkit CD for a reproducible copy.