

# Welcome to a Silent Christmas Lesson

**Please no talking.**

Our purpose in presenting a lesson in this manner is to help you feel the Spirit in different ways. You will be reading, writing, listening and watching. The narrative is by President Hinckley.

The blue sheet will be yours to write on and to keep.

**Please wait to turn each page until directed by the ringing of a bell.**

**Please do not skip ahead.**

Thank you.

Consider the words of this familiar Christmas song.

What Child is this who, laid to rest  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
While shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate,  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.

Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,  
The cross be borne for me, for you.  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh,  
Come peasant, king to own Him;  
The King of kings salvation brings,  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

Raise, raise a song on high,  
The virgin sings her lullaby.  
Joy, joy for Christ is born,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

Turn the page only when directed by the ringing of a bell.

A babe born in a stable of the village of Bethlehem  
A boy reared as a carpenter of Nazareth  
A citizen of a conquered and subdued nation  
A man whose mortal footsteps never went beyond a radius of 150 miles,  
who never received a school degree,  
who never spoke from a great pulpit, who never owned a home,  
who traveled afoot and without purse.

Truly, His coming, ministry, and place in our eyes is as foretold by the ancient prophet Isaiah.

◆ ***Turn to and read Isaiah 9:6 in the Old Testament (page 873).***

I ask anew the question offered by Pilate two thousand years ago.

◆ ***Turn to and read Matthew 27:22 in the New Testament (page 1238).***

Indeed, we need continually to ask ourselves, What shall we do with Jesus who is called Christ? What shall we do with his teachings, and how can we make them an inseparable part of our lives? In light of these questions, at this season we ask another: What does Christmas really mean? May I suggest some things that it should mean?

## Christmas means giving.

The Father gave his Son, and the Son gave his life. Without giving there is no true Christmas, and without sacrifice there is no true worship. There is more to Christmas than neckties, earrings, toys, and all the tinsel stuff of which we make so much.

What then, indeed, shall we do with Jesus who is called Christ?

Christmas means giving—and “the gift without the giver is bare.” Giving of self; giving of substance; giving of heart and mind and strength in assisting those in need and in spreading the cause of His eternal truth—these are of the very essence of the true spirit of Christmas.

✍ ***PLEASE READ QUESTION #1 ON THE BLUE SHEET AND WRITE YOUR ANSWER.***

Turn the page only when directed by the ringing of a bell.

## Christmas means the Christ child –

–the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger while angels sang and wise men traveled far to bring gifts.

Consider the import of that first Christmas night.

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining  
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth.  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.  
The thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.

Fall on your knees,  
Oh, hear the angel voices  
O night divine,  
O night when Christ was born  
O night divine,  
O night, O night divine,

The thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.

Fall on your knees,  
Oh, hear the angel voices  
O night divine,  
O night when Christ was born  
O night divine,  
O night, O night divine,

O holy night

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When I think of the Savior, I think not only of the words of Matthew and Luke, but also of the words of John.

◆ ***Turn to and read John 1:1-4 in the New Testament (page 1324).***

Here is something more than a babe in a manger; here is the Creator of all that is good and beautiful.

I have looked at majestic mountains rising high against the blue sky and thought of Jesus, the Creator of heaven and earth. I have stood on the sand of an island in the Pacific and watched the dawn rise like thunder . . . and thought of Jesus, the Word by whom all things were made and without whom was not anything made that was made.

What then shall we do with Jesus who is called Christ?

This earth is His creation. When we make it ugly, we offend Him. Our bodies are the work of our Creator. When we abuse them, we abuse Him.

*✍ PLEASE READ QUESTION #2 ON THE BLUE SHEET AND WRITE YOUR ANSWER.*

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## Christmas means eternity.

As certainly as Christ came into the world, lived among men, laid down his life, and became the first fruits of the resurrection, so, through that atonement, all become partakers of immortality. Death will come, but death has been robbed of its sting, and the grave of its victory.

◆ ***Turn to and read John 11:25-27 in the New Testament (page 1347).***

I remember standing before the bier of a young man whose life had been bright with hope and promise. He had been an athlete in his high school, and an excellent university student. He was a friendly, affable, brilliant young man. He had gone into the mission field. He and his companion were riding down the highway when a car, coming from the opposite direction, moved into their lane and crashed into them. He died in the hospital an hour later. As I stood at the pulpit and looked into the faces of his father and his mother, there came then into my heart a conviction that I had seldom before felt with such assurance. I knew with certainty, as I looked across that casket, that this young man had not died, but had merely been transferred to another field of labor in the eternal ministry of the Lord.

Indeed, what shall one do with Jesus who is called Christ?

Let us live with the certain knowledge that some day "we shall be brought to stand before God, knowing even as we know now, and have a bright recollection of all our guilt" (Alma 11:43.) Let us live today knowing that we shall live forever. Let us live with the conviction that whatever principle of intelligence and beauty and truth and goodness we make a part of our life here, it will rise with us in the resurrection.

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Christmas means compassion and love and, most of all, forgiveness.

“Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29.) How poor indeed would be our lives without the influence of his teachings and his matchless example. The lessons of the turning of the other cheek, going the second mile, the return of the prodigal, and scores of other incomparable teachings have filtered down the ages to become the catalyst to bring kindness and mercy out of much of man’s inhumanity to man.

Brutality reigns where Christ is banished.

Kindness and forbearance govern where Christ is recognized and his teachings are followed.

What shall we do then with Jesus who is called Christ?

“He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?” (Micah 6:8.)

◆ ***Turn to and read Doctrine and Covenants 64:9.***

✍ ***PLEASE READ QUESTION #3 ON THE BLUE SHEET AND WRITE YOUR ANSWER.***

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## Christmas means peace.

I remember being in Europe a number of years ago at the time tanks were rolling down the streets of a great city, and students were being slaughtered with machine-gun fire. I stood that December day in the railroad station in Berne, Switzerland.

At eleven o'clock in the morning, every church bell in Switzerland began to ring, and at the conclusion of that ringing, every vehicle stopped—every car on the highway, every bus, every railroad train. The great, cavernous railway station became deathly still. I looked out the front door across the plaza. Men working on the hotel opposite stood on the scaffolding with bared heads. Every bicycle stopped. Every man and woman and child dismounted and stood with bared, bowed heads.

Then, after three minutes of prayerful silence, trucks, great convoys of them, began to roll from Geneva and Berne and Basel and Zurich toward the suffering nation to the east, laden with supplies—food, clothing, and medicine. The gates of Switzerland were thrown open to refugees.

As I stood there that December morning, I marveled at the miraculous contrast of the oppressive power mowing down students in one nation and the spirit of a Christian people in another who bowed their heads in prayer and reverence, then rolled up their sleeves to provide succor and salvation.

What shall we do then with Jesus which is called Christ?

◆ ***Turn to and read Matthew 25:35-36 in the New Testament (page 1233).***

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He whose birth we commemorate this season is more than the symbol of a holiday. He is the Son of God, the Creator of the earth, the Jehovah of the Old Testament, the fulfillment of the Law of Moses, the Redeemer of mankind, the King of Kings, the Prince of Peace.

I rejoice at Christmas time that as a people, we Latter-day Saints know of His existence and reality, and receive certain direction from Him.

“And now, after the many testimonies which have been given of Him, this is the testimony, last of all, which we give of Him: That He lives!

“For we saw Him, even on the right hand of God; and we heard the voice bearing record that He is the Only Begotten of the Father—

“That by Him, and through Him, and of Him, the worlds are and were created, and the inhabitants thereof are begotten sons and daughters unto God.” (D&C 76:22-24.)

This is our testimony to all mankind. It is our gift and blessing to the world. He is our joy and our salvation, and we will find Christmas of greater meaning in our own lives as we share these truths with others.

What shall we do with Jesus who is called Christ? Learn of him. Search the scriptures for they are  
they which testify of him.

Ponder the miracle of His life and mission.

Try a little more diligently to follow His example  
and observe His teachings.

Bring the Christ back into Christmas.

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*PLEASE READ QUESTION #4 ON THE BLUE SHEET AND WRITE YOUR ANSWER.*

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*(BLUE SHEET – QUESTIONS TO ACCOMPANY THE SILENT LESSON – IT IS SEPARATE SO THAT THE LESSON PAGES CAN BE REUSED.)*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Silent Christmas Lesson –

**Question 1** - What are you giving from your heart this Christmas? What gift would you offer to Christ?

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**Question 2** - What creations of the Lord do you find inspiring? How do you show respect for the body that He has given into your care?

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**Question 3** - How good are you at forgiving others? How can you improve this required quality of being forgiving?

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**Question 4** - Do you believe? Do you have faith that Jesus Christ was born in a manger? That He is your Savior and Redeemer? Write your testimony of the Savior as it is today and plan to increase your testimony of Him before next Christmas.

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Turn the page only when directed by the ringing of a bell.

Add appropriate music as desired, such as when the girls are reading the words of the hymns, and at the end.

Even change the music to fit your needs or girls' ability to play a musical instrument.

You may have time to show the Luke II video "on" one of the pages.

Add pictures as desired.

Arrange for a closing prayer as needed.

The text is excerpted from a talk by President Hinckley -

Gordon B. Hinckley, "What Shall I Do Then with Jesus Which Is Called Christ?" Ensign, Dec. 1983, 3

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