

December 25, 2005  
Christmas

## **"Jesus - God's Glory"**

### **Jesus walked among us so we could know God.**

#### **Key Verse: John 1:14 (NIV)**

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

#### **Bible Passage: John 1:1-14 (NIV)**

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. ... He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God — children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.*

#### **Lesson Thought**

Every now and again God allows us to experience Him in a new way. Not long ago, I stood on the rim of the Grand Canyon and was awed by God's creation. I was one of several hundred people standing and gazing into the canyon. The thing that amazed me the most was that no one spoke. When confronted with God's amazing creative power, we were unable to place our thoughts into words. The Apostle John begins his gospel by telling us that Jesus was not only present at the creation of the world, but that all things were made through Him. In fact, John takes another step and says, "without Him nothing was made that has been made. John continues to unveil this Jesus for us. John says "The Word (Jesus) became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." Jesus is God. Yet as we consider the birth of Jesus on this Christmas day, we need to be reminded that Jesus, the creator of all there is, came as a baby to be in His creation. Jesus was human. He experienced the fulfillment of healthy relationships and the deep pain of

loneliness. He knew what it was to have his physical needs met and to experience the frustration of too little resource. He experienced the same joys and sorrows that we have. He knows what it is to be fully human. Jesus became human, and yet He retained His divinity - one of the mysteries of the Bible. He walked among us, experienced life as we do, and yet He was also divine. Jesus revealed God's love for us, His passion for us, and God's desire to know us. As we look at Jesus, we get a better understanding of the God we serve. God becomes real to us. When we see Jesus, we see God.

- We see God's Majesty, sovereignty, holiness, transcendence. He is more than we will ever be able to understand.
- We see God's unconditional love. Even when we were separated from God and unworthy of His love, Christ came to us
- We see God's mercy. Even though our sin condemns us, God, through Jesus, has forgiven us.
- We see God's grace. God gives us eternal life; not because we are worthy but because Jesus is.

**Application: what does this lesson say to us today?**

1) As you worship this Christmas day, worship Jesus, the God of creation, who came and lived among His creation so that we can know God.

2) Think about Jesus. Do you know Him in a personal way, in the way He wants to know you?

3) Jesus gave up everything for us; what are we willing to give to Him? This week, consider what would be an appropriate gift to give Jesus this Christmas.

**Family Activities: putting the lesson into action**

Talk about your ideas of what God is like. What would it be like to meet God? What would God look like? What would God say to you? What would you say to God? What would God wear? What would you wear if you knew you were going to meet God? Draw a picture of what you think God might look like.

**Suggestions for further study**

Isaiah 40

*Bill Briggs*