



# Sabbath Keeping Youth

## Empower Your Child With the Truth About Christmas

Christmas is a mix of Babylonian idolatry, which was imported into Rome by the Pergamos and the somewhat truthful story about Christ's birth. Religious rituals have been added and then introduced to the world by the Roman Catholic Church. For a period of two to three hundred years, Christians did not observe Christmas. Facts are abundant to prove this. Take the time on your own to read what the various encyclopedias and historical commentaries have to say on the subject of Christmas.

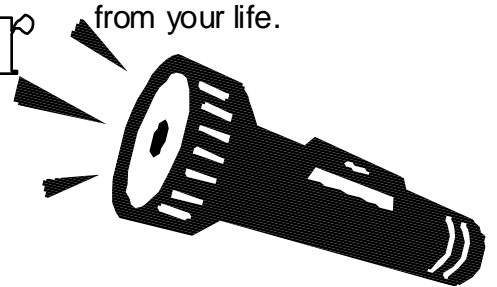
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- Light. What an incredible thing.
- You can't live without it. You need it to see that the socks you're putting on are the same color. You need it to make sure you don't run into something that will hurt you.
- You have to have it for almost everything except when you're asleep. It has such power. A room can be pitch black and then one candle is lit and all of a sudden there is a glow in the room.
- Jesus came to the earth in human form for two reasons.
- The first reason was to be "The Light of the World" in flesh. He has power to light up the darkest of lives. The message he gave

Light Your  
World

is that of love, forgiveness, and hope. Jesus can help absolutely anyone find his or her way out of the darkness of sin and into the light of life. Jesus is the answer. The "light" of His love shone wherever He went. People were drawn to Him because of the glow of love and hope he possessed.

The second reason is Jesus now wants you to carry His light. He commands you to be a light to your world. You probably know someone who isn't a Christian and lives in "darkness." If Jesus lives inside your heart, then it's your duty to turn your spiritual flashlight on and let "Jesus" shine from your life.



Teaching and training children in the ways of living a godly life is a parent's job. The first formal charge given by God to all parents is found in Deuteronomy 6:4-9. The mental and moral growth of a child is the responsibility of the parent. This training and teaching is accomplished through guidance and direction. At this time of year, an important moral to teach your child is honesty. This lesson may be taught by giving them the facts about Christmas.

Children who are grounded in the truth have a far easier time believing in God, Jesus Christ and the Bible than those who have been lied to. Parents who take the time to teach facts give their children security because they have empowered them with truth. There are many people who have never stopped and asked "why" they keep Christmas or "where" and "when" did it originate. They grew up accepting the custom without question.

Giving your children the truth about Christmas empowers them when they are asked why they don't keep Christmas. When children have the facts, they have the courage to answer the tough questions.

THE  
Parents  
CORNER

## Empower Your Child continued...

Below are some basic facts for you to teach your children about Christmas:

When the Bible became available to the common people in England by the decree of King James the II in 1611, people learned the pagan roots of Christmas.

The Puritans in England and later in the Massachusetts Colony outlawed Christmas as witchcraft.

In Colonial America, Christmas celebrations were outlawed as being pagan and a reproach to the Lord.

Christmas is a combination of the words Christ and Mass. Mass means death. It was later shortened to Christmas. Is this holiday about Christ's birth or death?

Christmas is not mentioned in the Bible nor discussed by the apostles who were instructed by Christ. The Bible does discuss the Christmas tree. "Thus saith the Lord, learn not the way of the heathen...for the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman with the axe. They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not" (Jeremiah 10:2-6). God has described the Christmas tree as "the way of the heathen."

What about the presents given at Christmas time? It was the custom of the day to bring a gift when coming in the presence of a King. The wise men were not exchanging gifts among themselves, honoring Christ's birth or starting a new religious practice. They were simply following the custom of the day. The Queen of Sheba was brought gifts and when dignitaries visit the President at the White House they bring a gift.

The manger scene displayed every year shows Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, three wise men and shepherds. There isn't a scripture that records how many wise men visited Christ nor does the Bible say they saw Him in a manger. "On coming to the *house*, they saw the *child* with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him" (Matthew 2:11). When the wise men saw Jesus, he was in a house and he was no longer a baby, but a child.

It was the shepherds that visited Jesus in Bethlehem in the manger and they did not follow a star. It was after they were informed of His birth by the angel of the Lord that they "hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger" (Luke 2:16).

It is a lie to say Jesus was born on December 25<sup>th</sup>.

- When Christ was born, "...there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night" (Luke 2:8). Shepherds would not be tending their sheep in Judea in the month of December because it would be cold and rainy. "It was an ancient custom among Jews of those days to send out their sheep to the fields and deserts about the Passover (early spring), and bring them home at commencement of the first rain," says the Adam Clarke Commentary (Vol. 5, page 370, New York ed.).

- When one says he knows Christmas is from pagan customs but he celebrates it to honor Christ, how can one argue? No honor is given to God when people take part in pagan customs. God says, "Keep my requirements and do not follow any of the detestable customs that were practiced before you..." (Leviticus 18:30).

- Christmas is a tradition of men. Jesus said, "in vain do they worship me, teaching as their doctrines the precepts of men" (Matthew 15:9). It is a lie to think that men can take holly, mistletoe, wreaths, presents and trees and say they are Christian.

- Christmas is neither Christ's birthday nor a way that one can worship and honor God and Jesus Christ. Christmas is an ancient pagan celebration. Man cannot "Christianize" its customs and pretend God approves. There is nothing truthful about Christmas. It is a lie. Remember, "...Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve...But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15).

# It's a King!

## The Birth of Jesus Christ

### Luke 2:1-20



Prior to the birth of Jesus, Caesar Augustus was the emperor of the Roman world. One day this Emperor ordered that a census be taken. A census is the counting of the number of people in an area. The census required that everyone return to ones ancestral homes. For Mary and Joseph this meant they had to travel to Bethlehem where their ancestor, King David, had lived.

When Mary and Joseph began their travels to the City of David, also known as Bethlehem, Mary was about to give birth to Jesus, the promised Savior. Mary's baby was very special. He was the fulfillment of the prophecy of a Savior sent by God (Isaiah 7:14) who was to be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2) and was promised to Joseph and Mary by an angel (Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:18-25). While they were in Bethlehem, the day arrived for Mary to give birth to her child. "She brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn" (Luke 2:7).

Outside of Bethlehem, there were shepherds in the field watching over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord came upon them and the glory of the Lord shone around them. The shepherds were afraid. The angel of the Lord said, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy that is coming to all people" (Luke 2:9). The angel of the Lord told the shepherds the good news— the Savior had been born in the City of David. The angel continued, "You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger. Suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

*"Glory to God in the highest, And on earth "peace, goodwill toward men!"*

When the angels departed, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us" (Luke 2:15).

The shepherds hurried to Bethlehem to find Mary and Joseph. When they arrived, they found Mary, Joseph and the Baby lying in the manger. After they had seen the Baby, they told the news to others, glorifying and praising God for what they had seen.

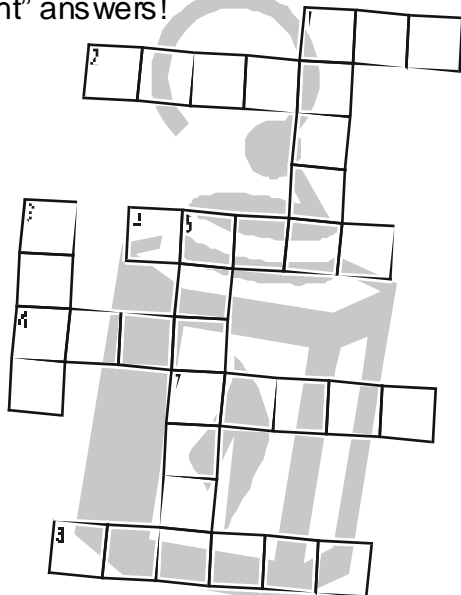
These were not ordinary shepherds that the angel of the Lord appeared to. They were probably the shepherds who were appointed to look over the temple sheep. The temple flocks were used for sacrifices. Now with the birth of the Messiah, the sheep for sacrifice were no longer needed to die for the sins of all people. The Lamb of God had been born to die for the sins of mankind. It is no wonder why the angel of the Lord chose these shepherds to announce the birth of Jesus Christ.

## Sabbath Keeping Youth

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# *in the* **Living Light**

We use many different kinds of light every day. Complete this crossword in "light speed" with lots of "light" answers!



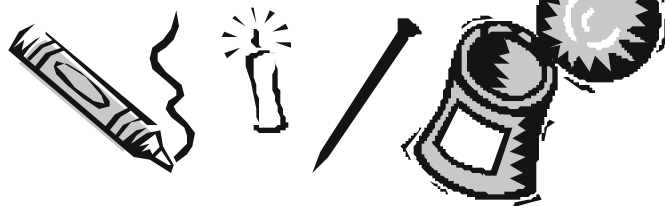
## Down

- 1 The small lights of the night.
- 3 The light you turn on when you are sitting in a chair reading.
- 5 Before there was electricity, people used this to see in the dark. (There is a hint on this page.)

## Across

- 1 The largest light in our universe.
- 2 The light you plug in your bedroom while you sleep.
- 4 The light you carry with you while hiking in the dark.
- 6 The large light of night.
- 7 The light carried in the Olympics
- 8 The light that is started with a match.

# *Tin can* **Luminaries**



## What you need:

- Clean tin cans with labels removed and one end opened.
- water
- dark-colored crayon
- large nail
- tea light or small candle
- hammer
- metallic copper acrylic paint

## What to do:

- Using the crayon, draw a simple design in the middle of each side of the can. Fill the can with water and set upright in the freezer. Wait for the water to freeze solid. Take the can outside and stand on a concrete porch or sidewalk. (Have an adult help you with the next part.) Lay the can on the ground between your feet to hold the can in place. Following your crayon pattern on the can, carefully tap holes into the lines of the design by placing the point of the nail along the line and punching it through with the hammer. Continue hammering along the outline, and make the holes about 1/4 inch apart. When you are done, dump the ice out. Dry the can, and then let it air dry for an hour or so. If you want to paint the can, this is the time to do it. Drop in a tea light candle and admire the glow.

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