

KIDS CHRONICLES

STORY POINTS

Big Picture Question: Why did Jesus become human?

Jesus became human (fully God and fully man) to obey His Father's plan and rescue sinners by being punished in their place.

Nov 6th: Jesus as a Child (Matthew 2; Luke 2)

There is not much written about the early years of Jesus' life. Luke records a time when Jesus was about 12 and accompanied Mary and Joseph went to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover. Jesus' parents headed home after the feast, but Jesus had stayed behind. They returned to Jerusalem and found Him at the temple. Jesus asked His mother, "Didn't you know that I had to be in My Father's house?" Mary and Joseph did not understand. Jesus is God's Son, and it was necessary that He honor His true Father. In all this, Jesus did not sin. As he got older, He grew "in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and with people" (Luke 2:52)

Nov 13th: Jesus' Baptism (Matthew 3; Mark 1; Luke 3; John 1)

John the Baptist's ministry began when he started preaching near the Jordan River. John worked to get people ready for the coming of Jesus (Isa. 40:3a). John called people to repent of their sins, and he baptized them in the Jordan River. Before His ministry began, Jesus came from Galilee to be baptized by John at the Jordan. But John was calling people to a baptism of repentance. Jesus never sinned (Heb. 4:15; 2 Cor. 5:21), so why did Jesus come to be baptized? He was identifying with sinners—he would be punished for their sin, and his perfect record credited to them by faith. Christian baptism is a public declaration of the believer's salvation in Christ, identifying with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection symbolized by immersion in water (Rom 6:3-6).

Nov 20th: Jesus' Temptation (Matthew 4; Mark 1; Luke 4)

Satan tempted Adam and Eve to disobey God (Gen 3). Sin entered the world, and the perfect relationship between God and man was broken. But all along, God had a plan to rescue His people through His Son. After Jesus was baptized—beginning His ministry—Satan tempted Jesus. If Satan could get Jesus to sin—then Jesus would be disqualified to be the sinless Savior people needed. But Jesus never sinned; therefore, He is the perfect sacrifice required to take away sin. Where Adam failed, Jesus succeeded. Adam brought guilt and death to the human race, but Jesus brings forgiveness and life to all who trust in Him (1 John 1:9; Rom 4:3-5).

Nov 27th: John Pointed to Jesus (Matthew 3; John 1; 3)

John came "baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins" (Mark 1:4). These baptisms were a public declaration of the believer's salvation, identifying with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection symbolized by immersion in water. John's followers were concerned when they saw Jesus and His disciples baptizing people too. They came to John, who pointed out several things about himself and about Jesus. Where did they come from? John was from the earth, but Jesus comes from above and is above all (John 3:31). What did they do? John was a witness to the Light, but Jesus is the Light. (John 1:7-8) Why were they here? to get people ready for Jesus. (Isa. 40:3; Mal. 3:1). Jesus came to give eternal life (John 3:36). The time had come for John to step aside and let Jesus take the spotlight. John's mission was complete.

GOSPEL TIP

In Paul's first letter to Timothy, he writes, "Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by doing so you will save both yourself and your hearers" (1 Tim 4:16). To keep a close watch on yourself means you are living with integrity, submitted to God's Word. By abiding with Christ, you are increasingly being conformed to the image of Christ, and therefore exemplifying the followership of Christ you teach to your children.

Second, to keep a close watch on the teaching means you are vigilant in how your children are being instructed. Children are being discipled 24/7, whether by the futile ways of the world or the wisdom of God. Gospel instruction, helping your children know who God is in all His perfections, applying the Bible to daily life – all of this is part of keeping a close watch on the teaching.

God is not guaranteeing salvation for all who are trained to follow the Lord. However, He is promising that He will use our human efforts – the preaching of the Gospel, laboring diligently in prayer, personal discipleship relationships – to redeem people from sin.

GOD'S WORD IN MY HEART

Scripture Memory Challenge

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ~1 John 4:9

EVERY MOMENT REDEEMED

The traditional date of Jesus' birth celebrated across the world is December 25th. This date was established by the eastern church in the 4th century to serve as the Christian equivalent to the Roman pagan holiday of sol Invictus ("the invincible sun god"), which was celebrated at a time of winter solstice. The conviction of the eastern church was that Jesus is the true invincible "sun".

It is interesting that for three hundred years prior, the Church had not come to a consensus on the date of Jesus' birth. Instead, the Church was focused upon the incarnation, Jesus' first coming. The early Church's posture is a reminder for the Church today to refocus upon the glory of Advent, the incarnation of the second Member of the Trinity. May our children see our own hearts ablaze with joy, thankfulness, reverence, and awe in God the Son being born in the likeness of man!

Advent Devotional Resources:

- [Family Seed Worship: Advent Ornament Boxes](#)
- [Grace to You: Six Ways to Miss Christmas](#)
- [Truth 78: Good News of Great Joy](#)
- [The Dawning of Indestructible Joy by John Piper](#)
- [Come Let Us Adore Him by Paul David Tripp](#)
- [Answers In Genesis: Christmas](#)
- [Advent Worship Playlist](#)

FEEDBACK:

We would love to hear your feedback about this newsletter as we continue to develop how we partner with parents. Several man hours are poured into creating this content, so we want to make sure it is valuable to the discipleship in your home. [Here is the survey form.](#)