

HIS STORY

- When have you wanted to help someone (or even an animal), but couldn't help them to understand why or how?
- Why was it necessary that God became one of us?
- How is the character and nature of God visible in the life of Jesus?
- When has your own joy increased as you have lived for God and not yourself?
- Considering our salvation is completely of grace and entirely because of Christ, how does this move you to worship?



Essential Doctrine

Adoption | Adoption into God's family is one the positive benefits of justification. Not only are we pardoned from the judgment against us through justification, but we also experience a change of identity—we become children of God (John 1:12; Gal. 4:5). Through adoption our relationship with God, which was once lost through the fall, is now restored, resulting in the benefits of being an heir of God and a co-heir with Christ (Rom. 8:16-17).



Christ Connection

The law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ, the One who came to reveal God perfectly to us and give eternal life to all who believe in Him.



In Defense

Jesus wasn't born just anywhere—He was born in “the city of David, which is called Bethlehem.” This fact was foretold by the prophet Micah eight hundred years earlier (Mic. 5:2). When the Roman empire required that all people travel to the towns of their ancestors, Joseph traveled with Mary approximately 90 miles from their hometown of Nazareth south to Bethlehem (Luke 2:1-3). Once Joseph and Mary arrived in Bethlehem, they found that “there was no guest room available for them.” Most people in Bethlehem lived in one-room homes, and the animal's feeding troughs were typically in the family's living area. Although the animals likely stayed outside, accommodations were made in the wall for an animal to stick his head in to eat from the trough. Larger homes had an adjoining room where guests could sleep. So, the young couple likely slept in the living area and when Jesus was born, His first crib was an inglorious feeding trough.

HEAD



- **What does it mean that grace and truth came through Jesus, as compared with the law?**
- **How did Jesus serve as the perfect picture of God?**

HEART 



- **How are you tempted to only know the truth instead of serving God from the heart?**
- **How is God calling to you show His grace to others in your life?**

HANDS



- **What is something specific in God's Word that you need to live out?**
- **How are you daily walking in obedience to God's Word?**