

# BIBLE TEACHING AND WORSHIP GUIDE



## FOR THE HOME-BASED CHURCH

Produced Weekly

**This session is appropriate for the Christmas season.**

***God with Us, for Everyone***  
**Matthew 1:18—2:12**

Copy this sheet for the Gathering Time, Bible Study, and Worship Experience leaders for the next meeting of the church.

## Leaders' Responsibilities:

**Important:** Each person who will be leading one of the three parts of a session during a Unit of sessions needs to have access to the "Basic Information for Leading the Unit of Study". That information is often provided at the beginning of that Unit of sessions. The weekly session "Background" located in the Teacher Preparation is much more specific to that day's study.

1. **The Gathering Time Leader** will gather all of the people together and help them prepare their minds and hearts for a wonderful worship experience before God. His/her responsibility is to introduce the congregation to the theme (content) and the Scripture that will be central to their worship experience for the day.

2. **The Bible Study Leader** will then help the people understand what the Scriptures have to say and teach us about the content of the study for the day. He/she will guide the people to make a general application of the study (ie: How does this Bible study apply to people today?)

3. **The Worship Time Leader** has the responsibility to use the theme and Scriptures to guide the congregation to make personal commitments to God's will for each one in regard to the study for the day. He/she will use others to lead in the music, taking the offering, ministry moment comments, and other activities and parts of the **Worship Time** that can aid in participatory worship.

## Prior to this Coming Session:

### **Gathering Time Leader:**

Prepare a family tree example for the group to follow. One possibility would be to **make copies of the family tree template found at the close of this session**. Share the copies with each person in the group, including the children who are mature enough to write names. For preschoolers, find colouring pictures of a mother and a father and provide crayons for them to colour their parents. Or, provide paper and crayons and ask them to draw pictures of their parents.

### **Bible Study Leader:**

©2001-2010, Eternal Interactive, LLC, All Rights Reserved. [www.homechurchonline.com](http://www.homechurchonline.com)  
**God with Us, for Everyone – 06-15-01-en**

Unless otherwise noted, scripture taken from the Holy Bible, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society. All rights reserved throughout the world. Used by permission of International Bible Society.

### **Worship Time Leader:**

#### **Music Sources:**

“O Come all Ye Faithful”

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

“How Great Our Joy”

“Away in a Manger”

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

Other Christmas songs familiar to your group.

If this session is used at a time other than Christmas, you may wish to choose songs that focus on the person of Jesus, but are not specifically songs sung at Christmastime. However, traditional Christmastime hymns need to be sung throughout the year.

**Gathering Time:** (Suggested time: 15 minutes)***God with Us, for Everyone*****Focal Text**

Matthew 1:18-2:12

**Background Text**

Matthew 1-2

**Main Idea**

God sent Jesus to save all people.

**Questions to Explore**

Why did God send Jesus? For whom did God send Jesus?

**Teaching Aim**

To lead the class to identify implications of Jesus' coming as "God with Us," for all people.

**Gathering together:**

Have copies of a family tree with blanks for each person to fill in. Spend a few minutes working on this and then ask members to share the name of one of their family members and something about that person which influenced them. Encourage each person to complete the family tree for their own records if they have not already done something similar on another occasion. (See the end of the session today for a sample family tree to use).

**First thoughts:****Who Am I? Who Was Jesus?**

Look together at the first sixteen verses of Matthew 1.

**Leader:** Do not read the verses, but ask people to make note of the fact that the list is a summary of the genealogy of Joseph, the husband of Mary, forty-two generations back to Abraham.

Say: None of us can trace our genealogy back forty-two generations. We will do well to be able to write the names of our great-grandparents. It is important for us to understand that this genealogy represents God's plan being fulfilled from Abraham all the way to Joseph. Now, God's great plan for the redemption of the world will be fulfilled as Jesus is born. He will **"save his people from their sins"** (Matthew 1:21).

### **Closing the Gathering Time:**

Say: Today we will think about the birth of Jesus. We often call it "the Christmas story". However, whatever time of the year it is when you study this passage, may the miracle of the birth of Jesus be new and fresh to you today.

Take time at this point to mention items of prayer concern for the church, announcements of ministry or activities, and anything else that needs to be shared with or by the congregation. Pray for these needs. Remember to praise God in prayer.

Break time! Take five minutes between sessions. Encourage children to use the washroom so that they won't need to leave during the Bible Study time.

Distribute youth/adult Bible study outlines or paper for note-taking, if available.

Also hand out the activity sheets for preschool and younger children to use during Bible Study and/or worship.

# 2

Copy this section for the Bible Study leader.

**Note to the Bible Study Leader:** Suggested teaching time for the Bible study should be about 35 minutes. Use the “Teacher Preparation” for your personal study during the week before the session. Use the “Bible Study Plan” for the actual session.

## Teacher Preparation

### *God with Us, for Everyone*

#### **Focal Text**

Matthew 1:18-2:12

#### **Background Text**

Matthew 1-2

#### **Main Idea**

God sent Jesus to save all people.

#### **Questions to Explore**

Why did God send Jesus? For whom did God send Jesus?

#### **Teaching Aim**

To lead the class to identify implications of Jesus' coming as "God with Us," for all people.

#### **Introduction to your personal study:**

Please ask for and read the information contained in the “**Basic Information for Leading the Unit of Study**”, found at the beginning of this Unit. Whoever downloaded this session for you should have that material for you, as well.

Every Christmas our family opens the presents that lay under the Christmas tree. Someone reads the gift tags to determine who will get which present. Occasionally someone has given a present to our entire family. The gift is for everyone to enjoy. God sent the greatest gift on the first Christmas in the person of his own son, Jesus. His name means “salvation,” and the gift is for everyone to enjoy. Like any present, a gift must be personally received to be of any benefit.

Although Jesus was born “king of the Jews,” as the long-awaited “Son of David,” he came not only for those in the chosen people of Israel. He came for everyone in the whole world. Today’s scripture passage tells of Magi from a far country who came to worship Jesus. They were welcomed into Jesus’ presence, and their heartfelt worship was gladly received. It made no difference their nationality, their race, or their background. Jesus was born for them just as much as for the Jews.

## Background:

Please ask for and read the information contained in the “**Basic Information for Leading the Unit of Study**”, found at the beginning of this Unit. Whoever downloaded this session for you should have that material for you as well.

Matthew’s purpose was to describe to his readers who Jesus is so that they might find salvation in Him. He began his gospel account in 1:1 with four titles for Jesus: “Jesus” (“the Lord saves”), “the Messiah/Christ” (“the anointed One”), “the son of David” (the promised Davidic ruler), and “the son of Abraham” (the chosen offspring through whom all peoples would be blessed, cf. Genesis 12:3). Matthew was probably writing to Jews who knew their Old Testament well, so He described Jesus’ lineage in terms of the covenants that God made with Israel through David (2 Samuel 7) and Abraham (Genesis 15). Using Jesus’ genealogy, Matthew summed up almost all the Old Testament in the seventeen verses, thus rehearsing God’s salvation story in the Old Testament. He then launched into the story of the conception and birth of Jesus.

## Focusing on the Meaning:

### "You are to give him the name Jesus" (1:18-21)

Mary and Joseph at this time were “betrothed” or **pledged to be married** to each other and had not yet gone through the official marriage ceremony. In the ancient world, in betrothal a couple had promised themselves to each other and were considered as a couple as if they were man and wife. A formal divorce was necessary to break a betrothal. At this point Mary was still a virgin and it was **before they came together**. Mary was **found to be with child through the Holy Spirit** instead of through Joseph. Seeing that his pledged was now pregnant and knowing that he was not the father, Joseph, being **a righteous man**, was willing **to divorce her quietly** instead of allowing her to suffer disgrace, or worse, the penalty for sexual unfaithfulness and adultery which was death by stoning (Leviticus 20:10; Deuteronomy 22:23-24).

An angel from God appeared to Joseph in a dream and assured him, **“Do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.”** He could be assured of her chastity and faithfulness. The angel informed him that Mary would bear a son, **“And you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”** The name “Jesus” is the Greek form of the famous Hebrew name “Joshua” (Exodus 24:13), and it means “the Lord saves.” By

giving this name the angel informed Joseph of the reason that Jesus came to earth: to save people from their greatest problem – sin. Salvation from sin is every person's greatest need, so Jesus came as the Saviour (Psalms 130:8).

### **"They will call him Immanuel" (1:22-25)**

The angel further explained about Isaiah's prophecy (Isaiah 7:14), ***"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" – which means, 'God with us.'*** Thus, Isaiah prophesied that Jesus would be born of a virgin. His title "Immanuel" shows what his birth means – that God himself has come to earth to be with his people. The name "Jesus" tells us what he does ("God saves"); the title "Immanuel" tells us who he is ("God with us"). God became flesh in the person of Jesus Christ, and he dwelt among his people (John 1:14). Matthew's gospel account closes with Jesus' promise of his eternal presence with his followers, "I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20). Thus, in the person of Jesus Christ, God indeed is with us.

Joseph obeyed God's command, and he **took Mary home as his wife**. This showed tremendous faith on Joseph's part, and he was willing to obey, regardless of the pain and ridicule the couple would experience from such an explanation. Mary carried the child and gave birth even though she remained a virgin, for ***he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son***. The term "until" naturally means that Mary and Joseph enjoyed normal marital sexual relations with each other after Jesus' birth, as indicated by the other children born to them (Matthew 12:46; 13:55). Joseph also gave up the right and privilege most every Jewish father would have in choosing a name for his firstborn son. Instead, he obeyed God's command and ***gave him the name Jesus***.

### **"We have come to worship him" (2:1-12)**

The story of the Magi ("wise men") takes place sometime after the birth of Jesus. The term used for Jesus is now "child" (v. 11) instead of "baby," and they entered "the house" where the family was now staying (v. 11). The **Magi** (from which comes the term "magician") were learned astrologers who studied the stars for meaning. They came from **the east**, probably Persia or Babylon, where they saw a certain star that meant that a king had been born, and it led them to Jerusalem. They asked King Herod, ***"Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him"*** (2:2). King Herod, who considered himself "king of the Jews," was not Jewish by birth, instead he was an Idumean, a descendant of Esau, not Jacob (Israel). He won the favour of the Roman government and was given the kingship over the Jews. To win the favour of the Jews, Herod rebuilt the temple in Jerusalem into a huge and elaborate complex. When the Magi asked him for the location of the person ***born king of the Jews***, Herod felt threatened.

The **chief priests and teachers of the law** knew what the scriptures said of where the Christ (Messiah) was to be born, ***"In Bethlehem in Judea"*** (2:4). The prophet Micah had prophesied that the coming son of David who would be God's chosen ruler over his people would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2). He would be ***"a ruler who will be the***

***shepherd of my people Israel.***” Herod sent the Magi to Bethlehem to find the child, and ***“As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him”*** (v. 8).

The Magi left Jerusalem and followed the star which led them exactly to the child in Bethlehem. ***On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him.*** This king, who was now a “child” (i.e. a toddler probably near the age of two, cf. 2:16), was no ordinary human monarch. This king deserved their humble worship. Even though the Magi saw both the child and Mary, they worshiped only Jesus. Though highly honoured, Mary was never intended to be an object of someone’s worship, devotion that belongs to God alone. She herself needed a “Saviour” (Luke 1:47).

As part of their worship, the Magi gave Jesus ***gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.*** Gold was a gift fit for a king. Incense (or “frankincense”) was a costly perfume but also an incense used in worship, especially by priests (Exodus 30:9, 34-38). Myrrh was an expensive aromatic spice that was used as a perfume (Proverbs 7:17) and as an ointment to anoint a body for burial (John 19:39). With these gifts the Magi helped finance this poor family who would very shortly need to flee for their lives to Egypt (vv. 13-15).

But their gifts also indicated much of the significance of who Jesus was and what he would accomplish. He was not only a king (Matthew 22:41-46), but he also would serve as a priest (Hebrews 7:1-28), and his death would be significant (Matthew 20:28). God warned the Magi in a dream of Herod’s evil intentions towards Jesus, so instead of returning to Jerusalem and informing Herod ***they returned to their country by another route.*** The Magi’s devotion to the newborn king would not allow them to return to Herod and place Jesus’ life in danger. If they came from Persia, their trip to Bethlehem may have taken around nine months, so the return journey would take at least as long. But they had met and worshiped the true king of the Jews, through whom salvation would come to all people (Genesis 12:3) – even to Gentiles like themselves. Their sacrifice and endurance on behalf of this king was certainly worth the effort.

## **Your Goal as the Leader of this Bible Study:**

This session is designed to introduce Jesus as God’s gift of salvation to everyone who accepts him as Lord and Saviour. It is also a call to those who believe in Jesus to recommit our lives to Jesus as our Lord and God. Jesus is more than just a friend. He is also Saviour, Lord, and God.

## **For Personal Reflection:**

1. **What have I learned from this study?**

2. **What personal experience does this lesson bring to mind?**
  
3. **What is one action I will take this week to apply this Scripture passage to my life?**

## **Bible Study Plan** (Suggested time: 35 minutes)

### ***God with Us, for Everyone***

Regroup the church after the Gathering Time and break by singing a chorus that young children can relate to—or another praise chorus if your congregation does not have children. Children who go to their own Bible teaching session should stay with the group until after this song. Have the preschoolers and children accompany the hymn with rhythm sticks, maracas, bells, etc.

**Begin by helping the group locate the Focal Text in their Bibles. Also, share with them the Main Idea to be learned from the Scriptures, and the Questions to be Explored by the group.**

#### **Focal Text**

Matthew 1:18-2:12

#### **Background Text**

Matthew 1-2

#### **Main Idea**

God sent Jesus to save all people.

#### **Questions to Explore**

Why did God send Jesus? For whom did God send Jesus?

#### **Teaching Aim**

To lead the class to identify implications of Jesus' coming as "God with Us," for all people.

#### **Connect with Life:**

As the group gathers, ask if anyone can remember a time when they felt left out of a group or were deliberately excluded from participating (e.g. a club, a sports team, etc.).

Ask: "How did you feel?"

State that today's lesson talks about God's gift of his son Jesus that he sent to earth. Explain that God sent Jesus to save all people, not only the chosen people of the Jews.

#### **Guide the Study:**

Take a moment to explain the background of this passage described in the Teacher preparation material. Explain that Matthew wrote the book primarily to people who knew what the Old Testament taught.

## **1. God sent Jesus to save people from their sins (1:18-21).**

Request a volunteer to read verses 18-21.

Look for an answer from the group: “According to verse 18, were Mary and Joseph married at this point?” Explain the Jewish custom of “betrothal” as described in the “Teacher Preparation” material.

Encourage a response: “What in verse 18 reveals that Mary was still a virgin? If she was still a virgin, then how did she become pregnant?”

“According to verse 19, what was Joseph’s initial reaction to the news of Mary’s pregnancy?” Explain that the penalty for adultery, even in a betrothal, was death by stoning.

Ask: “What was Joseph willing to do instead of having Mary killed?”

Then Ask: “What happened in verse 20 that explained the situation to him?”

Request a response to this thought: According to verse 21, would Joseph have the right to choose his son’s name?”

Explain the meaning of the name “Jesus.” (“the Lord is salvation”)

Seek opinions on this: “What is the greatest problem that any person has?” (sin)

After that answer is clear, ask: “Therefore, What is the greatest need that people have?” (Forgiveness from God and salvation from the deadly consequence of sin)

## **2. God sent Jesus to demonstrate His presence (1:22-25).**

Have a volunteer read verses 22-25.

Encourage ideas for this definition: “What is the meaning of the title ‘Immanuel’?” (“God with us”).

Search out a response: Now Why is this name significant?” Explain that the name “Jesus” tells us what he does (“saves people from sin”). The title “Immanuel” tells us who Jesus is, God with us.

Ask if anyone can describe a time when God’s presence was very meaningful to them.

Read for the group Jesus' promise to his disciples in Matthew 28:20.

Search a response to: "How long did Jesus promise to be present with his people?"

Refer the group back to Matthew 1:24-25.

Ask: "What was Joseph's response to the message from God's angel?"

Now ask: What could he expect from the people that knew them?

Get opinions: What do these verses say to someone that Joseph was the physical father of Jesus?"

### **3. God sent Jesus to invite all people into a relationship with Himself (2:1-12).**

Have someone read 2:1-8.

Explain that this story probably happened 1-2 years after Jesus' birth (see Teacher notes for details).

Request responses to these questions

"Where did the Magi come from?" (the east)

"How did God get their attention?" (a star)

"Where did they go to ask questions?" (Jerusalem)

Seek an answer to: "Where did they discover the answer to where the "king of the Jews" would be born?" (in the scriptures).

Explain why Herod would feel threatened by someone "born king of the Jews" (see Teacher notes for details).

Ask: "Was Herod genuine in his desire to go and worship the new king?"

Have someone read verses 9-12.

Ask: "How did the Magi find Jesus?" (the star led them)

Encourage different people to suggest an answer to each of these questions:

"What was their response?" (they worshiped him)

"Whom did they worship?" (the child)

“Why would they not worship Mary also?” Explain that Mary herself needed a “Saviour” (Luke 1:47).

“What gifts did the Magi bring to Jesus?” Take a moment to explain from the teacher notes the meaning of the three gifts.

“Why did the Magi not return to Herod?” (warned in a dream)

Look for opinions: “What kind of reception did the Magi receive from Mary and Jesus – were they accepted or rejected?”

Encourage a brief discussion from the group on these thoughts:

Were the Magi Jews or Gentiles?

What then would the scripture be teaching about for whom God sent Jesus?

Is anyone excluded from worshipping Him?”

## **Encourage Application:**

If you have two or more youth, this is the time to give them the **Youth!!! Take Ten** page and allow them to move away from the adults and apply the lesson by and for themselves.

Have persons in the group respond verbally to each of the following four questions:

Share with the congregation: “In light of what we have studied today in God's word, please ask yourself these questions. You may wish to make a brief comment on one or more of them:

What do I need to believe?

What do I need to do?

Is there a promise here I need to claim?

Is there an example I need to follow, or avoid?

Close in prayer.

**Take a five minute break to separate the Bible Study and Worship Time.** Children may need to use the washroom again before worship.

# Youth!!! Take Ten

## Bible Study Application for Youth

You may wish to move away from the adults for the final five to ten minutes of the Bible study and help each other as youth to apply the lesson to your own needs.

### ***God with Us, for Everyone*** **Matthew 1:18—2:12**

**A youth will lead the following activity and comments.** No adults need to be present. If possible, teens should take turns in leading the application time.

#### **What Is in a Name? Why Is my Name Special?**

Is there something special about your name? Are you named for someone special? Do you have a nickname?

Today we are thinking about the special name of Jesus. What did the lesson tell us was the meaning of the name “Jesus” and “Immanuel”?

Explain that the name “Jesus” tells us what he does (“saves people from sin”). The title “Immanuel” tells us who Jesus is (“God with us”).

Do these names matter to us today?

**Worship Time** (Suggested time: 30 minutes)***God with Us, for Everyone***  
**Matthew 1:18—2:12****Beginning the Service:**

Sing “O Come all Ye Faithful” and “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” and/or other Christmas songs familiar to your group.

If this session is used at a time other than Christmas, you may wish to choose songs that focus on the person of Jesus, but are not specifically songs sung at Christmastime. However, traditional Christmastime hymns need to be sung throughout the year. Doing so today could make this worship time more special!

**Offering:****Praying for the World:**

Terry and Lynda and David and Barbara had been friends for many years. One day Terry wrote David and Barbara and asked them to help an immigrant to the country where they lived. A man whom Terry had disciplined years before had shared the story of Jesus with this woman and she had become a Christian. Now she was moving with her son and Jim wanted her to have a friend when she arrived. He asked Terry if he knew someone in the city to which she would be immigrating. Sure enough, he did. Letters flew back and forth. All went as planned and the immigrant woman and Barbara and David became fast friends upon her arrival in her new home country.

Later, Terry and Lynda made a trip to visit Barbara and David to renew the forty year old friendship. They went to a Bible study in the home of their new friend. Happiness abounded when stories of the link between the people in the room and the far away friend were shared.

The Bible study time was led by the recent immigrant and the old, old story was especially sweet to those gathered in the room. Each one was thankful for the drama of the story of their meeting and each one thankful for his or her small part in the way God

worked to bring them together to worship and share. Pray today for this Christian woman so far from her home. Pray for her as she translates Home Church materials into her native language. Pray that even though she is far from home she will have a witness to those in her country who do not know Christ as Saviour.

## Sharing Guide:

**This sharing guide is written to assist the person who directs the worship time to reemphasize the teaching for the day and help guide the congregation to respond to God's call and will for their lives in regard to the scripture studied. The leader may choose to follow the guide closely. Or, he or she may wish to only use it to give direction and a concept for preparing an original message. The leader is free to choose other ways to communicate and share the concepts presented here.**

### *Call His Name Jesus*

One of the exciting tasks of preparing for the birth of a new baby is deciding on a name. Often names, like clothing, architecture, music, and many other aspects of life are influenced by what is popular. Matthew was a popular boy's name in North America for many years. Many little boys who are between 8 to 14 years old are called Matthew.

Biblical names are used by many Christian families. Preschooler names at one church included Malachi, two Calebs, Joshua, Solomon, Abraham, and Samuel. Parents are aware of the influence of a name given in response to a favourite Bible character.

Family members may also be remembered by giving their name to a new baby – a powerful influence for the baby and a joy for the one so remembered.

Matthew 1: 20-21 tells us the instructions which the Lord gave to Joseph concerning Mary and the baby she was carrying. "...an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.'" In verse 22 and 23 we are reminded that these happenings were foretold by the prophet Isaiah. "All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel—which means, 'God with us'".

**Call His Name Jesus for salvation.** Matthew 1:21 is clear that long before his birth Jesus was destined to save his people from their sins. In fact, John 1:1-2 tells us that "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." Verse  
©2001-2010, Eternal Interactive, LLC, All Rights Reserved. [www.homechurchonline.com](http://www.homechurchonline.com) 17  
*God with Us, for Everyone – 06-15-01-en*

Unless otherwise noted, scripture taken from the Holy Bible, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society. All rights reserved throughout the world. Used by permission of International Bible Society.

14 continues “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.” And verse 29 continues with John saying as Jesus came toward him “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

Following Isaiah’s prediction (Isaiah 6-8) of the dire fate of Israel and Judah at the hand of Assyria because of their disobedience, he gives the prophecy of the birth of Christ. Again these are familiar words “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6).

People across the ages have found Jesus to be their Saviour. What a marvel that this truth is as current today as it was when Isaiah and John were proclaiming His purpose.

**Call His Name Jesus for comfort.** “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.” This amazing truth is expressed in *The Message* in John 1:14 in the plain language “The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighbourhood.” Have you had neighbours who were always there when you needed them? They brought food when you were sick; they offered an extra bed when your house was full with extra people; they loaned you a tent when you wanted to go camping; they listened to you grieve over a wayward child or a dangerous ill grandchild. Still, there were limits on how much you would impose on that good neighbour. You returned the food when illness came to their house; you shared your garden tools; you listened to their heartaches. But with Jesus as the “Wonderful Counselor”, the good neighbour, there is no reciprocal relationship—no doing for Him as he has done for you. Instead, He is the giving one. He listens to every heartache; he meets every need; he is there in the dark night of worry. Call on Jesus for comfort. He is the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

An old song speaks to us of the story of Jesus. It is called “I Love to Tell the Story.”

I love to tell the story  
Of unseen things above,  
Of Jesus and His glory,  
Of Jesus and His love:  
I love to tell the story  
Because I know ‘tis true;  
It satisfies my longings  
As nothing else can do.

I love to tell the story;  
‘Tis pleasant to repeat  
What seems each time I tell it,  
More wonderfully sweet:  
I love to tell the story,  
For some have never heard

The message of salvation  
From God's own holy Word.

I love to tell the story;  
For those who know it best  
Seem hungering and thirsting  
To hear it, like the rest:  
And when, in scenes of glory,  
I sing the new, new song,  
'Twill be the old, old story  
That I have loved so long.

I love to tell the story,  
'Twill be my theme in glory  
To tell the old, old story of Jesus and His love.
















(Words: Katherine Hankey, 1834-1911 Public Domain)

### **Call to Commitment:**

"Our prayer today, Lord, is that each of us in this group may have the sweet assurance of Jesus as our Saviour and the calm hope of Jesus as our comfort. We thank you, Lord, for the old, old story of Jesus' birth which is as beautiful today as it was the first time we heard it. May we tell it this week to someone who may never have heard it."

### **Concluding the Service:**

Sing a traditional Christmas hymn such as "**How Great Our Joy**", "**Away in a Manger**", or "**Silent Night, Holy Night**". Remember that these hymns can and should be sung at times other than the Christmas season so do not hesitate to enjoy them even if you are not studying this lesson during the Christmas season.

							
			<b>Your Name</b>				
							
	<b>Father</b>				<b>Mother</b>		
							
<b>Father's father</b>		<b>Father's mother</b>		<b>Mother's father</b>		<b>Mother's mother</b>	
							
<b>Father's paternal grand-father</b>	<b>Father's paternal grand-mother</b>	<b>Father's maternal grand-father</b>	<b>Father's maternal grand-mother</b>	<b>Mother's paternal grand-father</b>	<b>Mother's paternal grand-mother</b>	<b>Mother's maternal grand-father</b>	<b>Mother's maternal grand-mother</b>

From: *Family History Book*. Microsoft Corporation, (version 2006?) Provided through Microsoft Office Professional Internet Help Service. Public access for MSWord users.