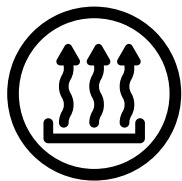




Born is the King:

What Child is This



WARM-UP

What are some traditions you have over the holiday season to help keep you focused on the "reason for the season"?

Read out loud as a group

HISTORY

The author of the hymn "What Child is this?" was William C. Dix born in 1837. Dix worked not as a preacher, which was common for hymnists in the 1800s, but as a manager at a marine insurance company in Glasgow, Scotland. Dix fell ill with a terrible sickness at the age of 29 which led him on a longer journey of recovery. This sickness is what prompted Dix to investigate faith and ultimately commit his life to Christ. One of his common practices of worship was to write out poetry which he eventually crafted into hymns. He has written more than 40 hymns and carols.

Listen: Here's a version of "What Child is This" by Josh Garrels:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2m1annHJjw4&list=RD2m1annHJjw4&start_radio=1

Read out loud as a group

WHAT CHILD IS THIS

1 What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems
sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?

Chorus:
This, this is Christ, the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels
sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

2 Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
[Chorus]

3 So bring Him incense, gold, and
myrrh,
Come, peasant, king to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
[Chorus]



What do you like about this hymn?

Possible Answers: Answers will vary.



This hymn calls out the wildness of the Creator of the Universe coming as a little baby to the world. Why is it significant that Jesus came into the world this way?

Possible Answers: it is significant because it shows God's character of humility, it shows that Jesus was indeed both fully man and fully God, showed that He lived a human life and can relate and empathize with us, to fulfill the prophecy and be in the line of David, to fulfill the prophecy of Genesis 3:15 (the "offspring of the woman" who crushes the head of the serpent), to be born under the law so that he could both be the perfect fulfillment of the law and the perfect sacrifice, shows us the path to salvation is God coming to us not the other way around, shows He is approachable, available, and accessible.



The call of this hymn for us is to let loving hearts enthrone him. What does this mean for you? How can we "let loving hearts enthrone him"?

Possible Answers: Answers will vary. Example: pray that our hearts would love Him more, remind ourselves of the wondrous deeds of our loving God, etc

Read out loud as a group

JOHN 1:1-14 NIV

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. 6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. 8 He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. 9 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. 11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. 12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. 14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.



What stands out to you about this passage?

Possible Answers: Answers will vary.

Read out loud as a group

"1:14 The Word became flesh does not mean the Word ceases being God, Rather, the Word, who was God, also took on humanity (see Phil 2:6-7). He lived as God and man at the same time. Dwelt among us. Literally "pitched his tent" a reminder of how God resided among the Israelites in the tabernacle (see Ex 25:8-9) and later in the temple. Now God takes up residence among his people in the incarnate Word, Jesus Christ."

- Footnote from the Global Study bible (ESV)



What things in your life, past or present, would change if you always remembered that God was with you?

Possible Answers: Answers will vary. Examples: past hurts or hard moments, imagining God holding your hand or crying with you can be very healing; unafraid when unexpected things come up; worshipful in all circumstances; etc



Vs 14 says Jesus came full of grace and truth. Which one do you tend to lean towards (grace or truth)? How do we keep them in balance?

Possible Answers: Answers will vary. Keep our eyes on Jesus, pray to God and ask him to help us keep them together, etc.



God isn't a distant ruler and judge, rather He desires to dwell with us. What do you do when you want to be close to someone? How might God be moving towards you in this season?

Possible Answers: Answers will vary. Talk to them, ask questions about them, spend time with them, seek them out, be curious, etc.



Everything was made through Christ. What things in your everyday life make you marvel at the creative work of Christ?

Possible Answers: Answers will vary. Examples: nature, the human body, the solar system, etc.



How does being a "child of God" go against what culture says our identity should be?

Possible Answers: culture says identity is from the inside out while God reminds us that at least a piece of it is from the outside in. Culture says you know deep down who you are and you can't change it. God says HE's created you, knows you better than you know yourself, and the closer you get to Him the closer you get to who He originally created you to be.

DISCUSSION FOR ACCOUNTABILITY



- What needs to be kicked off the throne of your heart in order for Jesus to take his place?
- How can you point to the Light this week?