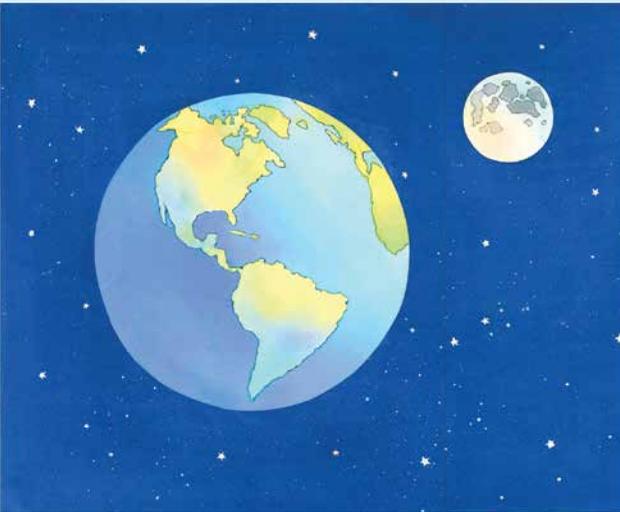


Jesus Is the Eternal Creator

John 1:1–4, 14, 15, 18; Hebrews 1:1–3; Colossians 1:15, 16



Did you ever think about where Jesus was before He came to earth as a baby? Because we were born as babies, sometimes we think that is when Jesus' life started. But Jesus was alive long before He came to earth.

Jesus lived in Heaven with God because He is God's Son.

We learned that God has no beginning and no end. He always was; He is now; He will be forever. Because that is how God is, His Son, Jesus, is that way too. Jesus has always been with God; He is with God now, and He will always be with God.

That is hard for us to

understand. Everything here on earth had a beginning. We all had a beginning. And eventually, everything on earth dies.

In the Bible, Jesus' disciple John calls Jesus "the Word." He wrote that Jesus was with God

and was God and was in the very beginning with God. Jesus helped God create everything on the earth.

John 1:10 says the world was made by Him. Imagine! Jesus made elephants, lizards, flowers, beans, Adam, and Eve! He was right there with God.

In John 1:14 we learn that Jesus became human like us and was born as a baby on the earth, just like us. Why did God send His Son here? We know it was to be our Savior. He came to rescue us from our sin. He is the only One Who could do that, because He is God's Son. ■

Theme

Jesus, the Son of God, created the world.

Measurable Response

My child will recognize Jesus as eternal God.

Memory Verse

"Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth"
(Psalm 102:25).

Bible Story Questions

Ask your child these review questions.

- Tell what Jesus was doing before He came to live on earth.
- Who created Jesus?
- Who is Jesus' Father?
- Where was Jesus before He was born?
- Why did God send Jesus to earth as a baby?



Daddy's Special Name



David was so excited he didn't think he could wait another minute for Christmas to come. Mother was baking cookies in the shape of stars and angels while she played Christmas music he could hear all over the house. Every day the mail carrier brought cards with beautiful pictures. The Christmas tree was so tall it almost touched the ceiling. David liked to sit by the tree and look at the presents wrapped in red, white, green, and gold paper. Some presents had his name on them.

On the piano, there was something Mommy called "a manger scene," but Daddy called it "God's Christmas Present." David didn't know why he called it that. It wasn't wrapped in Christmas paper. There was a little building called a stable and figures of Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, sheep, a donkey, and some shepherds.

One day Daddy and David were looking at the figures. "Why do you call this 'God's Christmas Present?'" asked David.

Daddy picked up the baby Jesus figure. "This represents the gift God gave us," said Daddy. "He loved us so much that He sent us His Son, Jesus. He came from Heaven to live on earth."

"So Jesus was a baby in Heaven too?" asked David.

"Oh, no, Jesus was the same as God in Heaven. In fact, He created the world and everything in it. I know it is hard to understand, but Jesus always was with God. He did not have a beginning or an end," Daddy explained.

"God's present to us was to send Jesus to earth to grow up and die on the cross to save us from God's punishment for our sins. When we ask Jesus to be our Savior from sin, God says we can live in Heaven with Him someday when we die. Now do you understand God's Christmas present?" asked Daddy.

"Yes," said David. "And I'm going to accept His present and thank Him for it right now." ■

Life Application

- What did Daddy call the manger?
- What is God's gift to us?
- What did David think Jesus was in Heaven? Was he right?
- What did David decide to do?



Wreath Reminder

Your child has learned that God has no beginning and no end. He learned the meanings of the words "everlasting" and "eternal." Because Jesus is God, the same is true of Him. To reinforce this truth, consider using a Christmas wreath. The wreath is made of evergreen which symbolizes eternal life. Evergreens are always green, even in winter. The traditional circle shape represents God (therefore Jesus) as having no beginning and no end. Secure a wreath for the project.

The other emphasis in today's lesson is that Jesus, as God, is the creator of the world and all things in it. Work with your child to find or draw pictures of creation (e.g., animals, planets, plants). Mount the pictures on card stock, punch a hole in them, and tie a string or ribbon to each picture. Tie the pictures on to the wreath.

Rehearse the meaning of the wreath with your child.

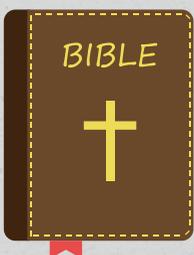


Growing at Home

That Jesus is God and always has been is a difficult concept even for adults to understand. That Jesus came to earth as a human and grew to be a man in the same way we do is also hard to comprehend. Your child may ask you questions about how Jesus could be God and Man at the same time. "Was Jesus still God when He was a little boy? Is His name Jesus in Heaven? Why didn't He

live forever on earth?"

Be prepared to answer your child truthfully and Biblically. Young children trust you to tell the truth and will accept your answer.



Measurables

Look for the following indicators that your child understands Jesus' deity and His purpose for coming to earth.

1. My child understands that Jesus was never a baby in Heaven.
2. My child knows Jesus is God's Son.
3. My child is learning that Jesus is the same as God.
4. My child can explain that God's present to us is Jesus, Whom God sent as our Savior from sin.



Jesus Came from Heaven

Directions: Fold the paper plate in half. On the fold, draw a half of a cross at the bottom. Look at the sample below. While the plate is folded, cut on the lines. Ask Mom or Dad to help you. Do not cut the bottom of the cross. Open the plate and color the cross red. Color the rest of the inside of the paper plate yellow to represent Heaven. Fold the cross forward so it stands up. Gently pull apart the cotton balls (fluff) or use yellow pom-poms and glue them to the plate to remind you that Jesus came from Heaven to earth and died on the cross for our sins.

What You Need:

A white (or yellow) paper plate (dessert size).

Pencil.

Scissors.

Yellow and red crayons or markers.

Yellow cotton balls or pom-poms.

Glue.

