

Christmas - Lesson 1 Teacher's Notes

Time: 90 minutes

Level: Intermediate/Advanced

Community Building – Life

Warm-up 10

Teacher welcomes students and asks about their week or weekends. Teacher asks about any new words they encountered in the previous week. Follow up with homework from previous lesson.

Life to Topic

Class Discussion 10

Teacher asks some *Christmas Trivia* to the class. Perhaps give little candy canes when students get the right answer.

1. On which day do we celebrate Christmas?
2. Which day is Christmas Eve?
3. What are two typical colours seen at Christmas?
4. Name two Christmas traditions.
5. Name two food items eaten on this joyous holiday?
6. Name the mint candy eaten at Christmas?
7. Where do you see a Christmas wreath hanging?
8. What is the proper name for songs that are sung at Christmas?
9. What greeting is popular over the holiday season?
10. Gifts are the most important part of the Christmas season. True or False?

Topic

Reading 40

Pre – Teacher introduces vocabulary by leading a discussion to gather their synonyms.

Words from Story	Synonyms
automobile (n)	
Lad (n)	
astounded (v)	
jarred (to jar) (v)	
astonishment (n)	
impulsively (adv)	
crippled (v)	

Reading – The Christmas Chicken Soup Story entitled 'A Brother Like That'. Teacher asks students to read the story silently.

Post –

Class or Pair Discussion (Pair work, or even a group of three is a great way to vary class activities. When you take up the answers as a class, the student can tell a story that (s)he has heard from a partner)

1. Were there any sentences or parts you didn't understand? (Another way to check for understanding is to have students re-tell the story, one sentence per student.)
 2. Describe Paul's character using several adjectives. Would you like to be him? Explain why or why not.
 3. Describe the young man in the story using 4-5 adjectives.
 4. Whom do you admire most in the story? Paul or the young man? Explain your answer.
 5. If you could interview Paul, what questions would you like to ask him?
 6. Have you ever been in a very difficult situation (eg. sick, lonely or having no money) and someone gave you something that was extremely meaningful? How did you feel? If you feel comfortable tell the story to the class.
 7. Do you like giving or receiving gifts?
 8. One aspect of Christmas is gift giving. Jesus, who was a teacher, instructed that it is more blessed to give than to receive. What do you think of this teaching? Explain your opinion.
 9. Think of the main lesson you learned in the story. What is it?
 10. If you were to give the story a new title, what would you name it?
- BONUS: Find the grammar error on line 5 of the story.

Topic to Life

Class Discussion 10

1. Who are some popular characters discussed at Christmas time? What do you know about these people?
2. What types of events happen over the Christmas season? At home? At work? In the community? At church?
3. What types of events will you take part in over the Christmas season? What celebrations take place at your workplace?

Writing - Crossword Puzzle 15

Students start working on their crossword puzzle. The words will introduce some of the Christmas story vocabulary that will be read next week. Teacher can explain some of these words if students are interested.

(This puzzle is found on <http://www.kidsdomain.com/holiday/xmas/word/cross2.gif>)

Life

Homework

Students read the story about the origins of the Candy Cane.

Christmas - Lesson 1
Student Handout

Pre- reading

Words from Story	Synonyms
automobile (n)	
Lad (n)	
astounded (v)	
jarred (to jar) (v)	
astonishment (n)	
impulsively (adv)	
crippled (v)	

A Brother Like That

A friend of mine named Paul received an automobile from his brother as a Christmas present. On Christmas Eve when Paul came out of his office, a young man was walking around the shiny new car, admiring it. "Is this your car, Mister?" he asked. Paul nodded. "My brother gave it to me for Christmas." The boy was astounded. "You mean your brother gave it to you and it didn't cost you nothing? Boy, I wish ..." He hesitated. Of course Paul knew what he was going to wish for. He was going to wish he had a brother like that. But what the lad said jarred Paul all the way down to his heels. "I wish," the boy went on, "that I could be a brother like that." Paul looked at the boy in astonishment, then impulsively he added, "Would you like to take a ride in my automobile?" "Oh yes, I'd love that." After a short ride, the boy turned and with his eyes aglow, said, "Mister, would you mind driving in front of my house?" Paul smiled a little. He thought he knew what the lad wanted. He wanted to show his neighbours that he could ride home in a big automobile. But Paul was wrong again. "Will you stop where those two steps are?" the boy asked. He ran up the steps. Then in a little while Paul heard him coming back, but he was not coming fast. He was carrying his little crippled brother. He sat him down on the bottom step, then sort of squeezed up against him and pointed to the car. "There she is, Buddy, just like I told you upstairs. His brother gave it to him for Christmas and it didn't cost him a cent. And some day I'm gonna give you one just like it ... then you can see for yourself all the pretty things in the Christmas windows that I've been trying to tell you about." Paul got out and lifted the lad to the front seat of his car. The shining-eyed older brother climbed in beside him and the three of them began a memorable holiday ride. That Christmas Eve, Paul learned what Jesus meant when he said: "It is more blessed to give..."

Dan Clark

Source: <http://www.scribd.com/doc/415025/Chicken-Soup-For-The-Soul-Jack-Canfield-and-Mark-Hansen>

Class or Pair Discussion

1. Were there any sentences or parts you didn't understand?
 2. Describe Paul's character using several adjectives. Would you like to be him? Explain why or why not.
 3. Describe the young man in the story using 4-5 adjectives.
 4. Whom do you admire most in the story? Paul or the young man? Explain your answer.
 5. If you could interview Paul, what questions would you like to ask him?
 6. Have you ever been in a very difficult situation (eg. sick, lonely or having no money) and someone gave you something that was extremely meaningful? How did you feel? If you feel comfortable tell the story to the class.
 7. Do you giving or receiving gifts?
 8. One aspect of Christmas is gift giving. Jesus, who was a teacher, instructed that it is more blessed to give than to receive. What do you think of this teaching? Explain your opinion.
 9. Think of the main lesson you learned in the story. What is it?
 10. If you were to give the story a new title, what would you name it?
- BONUS: Find the grammar error on line 5 of the story.

Homework

Read the following story about the origins of the candy cane.

The Story of the Candy Cane

Legend has it that in the 18th Century somewhere in Europe any public display of Christianity was forbidden. No crosses or Bibles were allowed and the Christians were greatly oppressed. One old man, a candy maker by profession, was particularly distressed by this. He loved the Lord with all of his heart and couldn't stand to not share that love with the world. His heart especially went out to the children when Christmas drew near and no one was allowed to have a nativity scene (or crèche`) on display in their homes. He prayed for God to show him some way to make Christmas gifts for the children which would teach them the story of Christ.

The answer was the candy cane. The candy cane was in the shape of a shepherd's staff to show them Jesus is our Shepherd and we are His flock. A sheep follows his own shepherd, knows his voice, and trusts him and knows that he is totally safe with him. The sheep will follow no other shepherd but their own. This is how we are to be with Jesus if we truly follow Him (John 10:11; Psalm 23:1; Isaiah 40:11)

Upside down the candy cane was a "J", the first letter of Jesus' name. (Luke 1:31) It was made of hard candy to remind us that Christ is the rock of our salvation. The wide red stripes on the candy cane were to represent the blood He shed on the cross for each one of us so that we can have eternal life through Him. He redeems us and cleanses us with His shed blood - the only thing that can wash away our sin. (Luke 22:20). The white stripes on a candy cane represented the virgin birth, sinless life and purity of our Lord. He is the only human being who ever lived on this earth who never committed a single sin. Even though He was tempted just as we are, He never sinned. (I Peter: 22) The three narrow red stripes on candy canes symbolized that by His stripes, or wounds, we are healed and the Trinity - the Father, Son (Jesus) and Holy Spirit. Before the crucifixion Jesus was beaten; the crown of thorns was placed on His head; His back was raw from the whip. We are healed by those wounds. He bore our sorrows and by His stripes we are healed. (Isaiah 53:3) The flavouring in the candy cane was peppermint, which is similar to hyssop. Hyssop is of the mint family and was used in Old Testament times for purification and sacrifice just as Jesus sacrificed His life for ours. (John 19:29; Psalm 51:7)

The old candy maker told them that when we break our candy cane it reminds us that Jesus' body was broken for us. When we have communion it is a reminder of what He did for us. (I Cor. 11:24) If we share our candy cane and give some to someone else in love because we want to, it represents that same love of Jesus because He is to be shared with one another in love. (I John 4:7,8) God gave Himself to us when He sent Jesus. He loved us so much He wants us to spend eternal life with Him... which we can do if we accept Jesus in our hearts as Saviour and Lord. (John 1:12; John 3:3,16) Some people believe this story of the candy cane is just a legend. Others believe it really happened. We do not know for sure exactly how the candy cane was invented, but there is one thing for certain... it is an excellent picture of Christ and His love for you.

Christmas - Lesson 2

Teacher's Notes

Time: 90 minutes

Level: Intermediate/Advanced

Community Building – Life

Warm-up 10

Teacher welcomes students and asks about their week or weekends. Teacher asks about any new words they encountered in the previous week. Follow up with homework from previous lesson. Perhaps bring in candy canes and ask students to re-tell the story or explain the symbolism.

Life to Topic

Class Discussion 15

- What do you think of when you hear the word 'Christmas'?
- Is Christmas a "Western" holiday? Explain.
- Where is Christmas celebrated/not celebrated around the world?
- When did you first hear about this special holiday? Who told you about it?
- What things or events are commonly associated with Christmas?

Topic

Reading: Luke 2:1-20 - 40

Pre-reading – Teacher gives the historical and cultural background to introduce Luke 2. Teacher could show a map, nativity scene pictures/cards or scenes with Shepherds and angels. The teacher could also have the class brainstorm in groups for words related to the Christmas story, then have students tell about how their words relate to the story. There may need to be explanation about the Roman Empire, the nature of a census, and King David.

Historical and Cultural Background

The town of Bethlehem in the West Bank, some six miles south of Jerusalem, is revered by millions as the birthplace of Jesus. According to the New Testament account of the apostle Matthew, Joseph and Mary were living in Bethlehem in the southern region of Judea at the time of Jesus' birth and later moved to Nazareth in the northern Galilee region. Joseph and a very pregnant Mary traveled more than 90 miles from their residence in Nazareth to Joseph's Judean hometown of Bethlehem to be counted in a Roman census. Regardless of the variation, both apostles agree that Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, the city where King David had been born a thousand years earlier.

Reading – Students first silently read the text before discussing it. Students should underline all new words. As a class students can take turns reading through each verse. Teacher can help with pronunciation and meaning of the new words and explain the meaning of each verse.

Post-reading

Class Discussion 20

1. Who is Caesar Augustus? What did he order?
2. Where did Joseph travel for the census?
3. What family did Joseph belong to?
4. Who traveled with Joseph?
5. Describe what you think their journey would have been like? What hard journeys have you made? Would you like to make a similar trip?
6. What happened to Mary and Joseph once they arrived?
7. In verse 8 shepherds are introduced. What is their job?

8. Who appeared to the shepherds in the field?
9. Is this believable? Do you think this actually took place? Why or why not?
10. What message did the angels bring to those in the fields?
11. Where do the shepherds go after the angels leave and what do they find when they arrive?
12. Why did Jesus come as a little baby, being born in humble place?
13. What parts of the Christmas story takes faith to believe that they actually took place? (eg. virgin birth, angels, etc.)

Listening 5

Teacher reads the following history about Silent Night and World War I before class sings the song. Some kind of picture would be helpful for this listening exercise.

Difficult vocab: binoculars, bayonets. Also, the landscape of WWI trenches may be unfamiliar.

The teacher may bring a CD or tape recording of the song to class.

SILENT NIGHT DURING WORLD WAR I

Just before midnight on Christmas Eve the British noticed small lights being lit and held high in the air. Through binoculars it was noted that the German soldiers were holding up candles on the end of their bayonets, some even held up Christmas trees. Through the piercing silence the British heard a song in the air. One solo voice rang out. Slowly the voice was joined by others. Although the words were in German the tune was quickly recognized as "Silent Night, Holy Night". One by one the brave soldiers ventured out into the "no man's land" -- the small pieces of land that lay between the two opposing trenches. The men that just hours before were trying to kill each other were now exchanging photos of loved ones, dehydrated beef, some played ball and others just told stories. When Christmas had ended the men shook hands and went back to their own trenches. A German General stood on the edge of his trench and bowed toward his enemies. A British General saluted towards his enemies. The War was on again!

Singing 20

Teacher reads through the lyrics line by line and explains any unknown vocabulary eg. yonder, virgin, stream, quake, etc. Finally the class sings Silent Night together.

Christmas - Lesson 2

Student Handout

Bible Reading *Luke 2*

The Birth of Jesus

1 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. 2 (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) 3 And everyone went to his own town to register.

4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

The Shepherds and the Angels

8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,
14 "Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Class Discussion

1. Who is Caesar Augustus? What did he order?
2. Where did Joseph travel for the census?
3. What family did Joseph belong to?
4. Who traveled with Joseph?
5. Describe what you think their journey would have been like? Would you like to make a similar trip?
6. What happened to Mary and Joseph once they arrived?
7. In verse 8 shepherds are introduced. What is their job?
8. Who appeared to the shepherds in the field?
9. Is this believable? Do you think this actually took place? Why or why not?
10. What message did the angels bring to those in the fields?
11. Where do the shepherds go after the angels leave and what do they find when they arrive?
12. Why did Jesus come as a little baby, being born in humble place?
13. What parts of the Christmas story takes faith to believe that they actually took place? (eg. virgin birth, angels, etc.)



Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ Was Born

SILENT NIGHT

Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and Child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light;
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Christmas - Lesson 3

Teacher's Notes

Time: 90 minutes

Level: Intermediate/Advanced

Community Building – Life

Warm-up 15

Teacher welcomes students and asks about their week or weekends.

Class Discussion

- 1) Why do you think Christmas is such an important holiday and celebrated around the world?
- 2) What Christmas symbols have you seen in the shopping malls, at work/school or in your neighborhood over the previous week?

Topic

Reading - Matthew 2:1-12 - 40

Pre-reading - Teacher tells students that they will read a continuation of the Christmas story from last week. Two years later the story of Christmas continues as we learn about the Wise men. Teacher shows pictures from cards or books with the manger scene and visiting Wise men.

Reading - Students read the text silently underlining all new words or ideas they do not understand.

Post-reading

Class Discussion 25

1. Are there any words you didn't understand? Any ideas or sentences you still don't understand?
2. Where did the Wise men come from? Which country do you think they came from?
3. Why did the Wise men travel for such a long distance to see little Jesus?
4. Why did they take gifts like gold, frankincense and myrrh to Jesus?
5. Why was King Herod so disturbed about Jesus' birth? What do you think about King Herod's fears and actions?
6. Why didn't the Wise men return to see King Herod?

Topic to Life

7. Think about this week and last week's texts. Is the story about Jesus birth 'just a story' or do you believe that the event really happened?
8. How has Jesus influenced the world?
9. Has the birth, life and death of Jesus changed your life or the life of someone you know? How?

Singing 20

Class sings 'Silent Night'. Teacher introduces 'We Wish You a Merry Christmas' (lyrics provided) or any other Christmas song of the teacher's choice. If the teacher chooses another song, they must provide the lyrics for students.

Life

Closing Discussion 10

Do you celebrate Christmas? What are you doing to celebrate Christmas this year? Are you planning to attend any Christmas work parties?
What are you planning to do on Christmas?
Who will you spend the holiday with?
What food will you eat on Christmas Day?

Christmas Lesson 3 Student Handout

Matthew 2:1-12

The Visit of the Magi

1 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem 2 and asked, "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."

3 When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. 5 "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

6 " 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.' "

7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. 8 He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. 11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of frankincense and of myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Class Discussion

1. Are there any words you didn't understand? Any ideas or sentences you still don't understand?
2. Where did the Wise men come from? Which country do you think they came from?
3. Why did the Wise men travel for such a long distance to see little Jesus?
4. Why did they take gifts like gold, frankincense and myrrh to Jesus?
5. Why was King Herod so disturbed about Jesus' birth? What do you think about King Herod's fears and actions?
6. Why didn't the Wise men return to see King Herod?
7. Think about this week and last week's texts. Is the story about Jesus birth 'just a story' or do you believe that the event really happened?
8. How has Jesus influenced the world?
9. Has the birth, life and death of Jesus changed your life or the life of someone you know? How?

