

Who Is God?

Is Christmas the Birth of God?

The church makes a lot of hoopla about the birth of Jesus in a manger in Bethlehem. Angels, shepherds, kings, choirs, carols, and trees lit up with lights. It can all seem a bit over the top for a birthday. Unless, of course, it really is the celebration of the birth of God – but that doesn't make a lot of sense either. In the final sermon of the Who Is God? series, we'll wrap it all up by exploring who this Jesus guy really is.

Colossians 1:15–20

1. _____ wasn't born on _____ – and either was _____.
2. Jesus is _____ ... Incarnation.
3. The Jesus of the _____ is rarely the Jesus of the _____.
4. God makes no _____ for being _____.
5. God has a _____ plan ...
6. God wants us to experience true _____, _____, and _____.

My Count Me In! Commitments

- I'll be here next Sunday
- I'll invite a friend
- I'll invest time getting to know the Jesus of the Bible
- I want to go deeper in my personal discipleship
- I'd like to attend the Getting Started Class (Jan 14)

Additional Notes

Digging Deeper and Going Further

The celebration of Christmas is a relatively “new” practice. The early church didn’t celebrate Jesus’ birth, but continually recalled his death and resurrection. In fact, it wasn’t until 345 when Pope Julius I declared December 25 the Feast of the Nativity that the church celebrated Jesus’ birth at all. As we wrap up our study of *Who Is God?* we’ll consider the relationship of Jesus to God ... and vice versa.

1. Read John 1:1–18. According to John, who is “the Word”?

2. In John 1:1, the Word apparently takes on two different forms. Who is “the Word”?

3. Read John 1:9–14. How did God choose to reveal His light and glory to the world?

4. In John 1:18, who does John say Jesus was?

5. Read Colossians 1:15–20. Who does this passage say is responsible for creating all things?

6. Read Col 1:19–20. How did God reconcile (bring back into right-relationship) all things to Him?

7. In this passage, Jesus was the firstborn of what two things?

8. Read Luke 2:1–20. According to Luke, who was the governor of Syria when Jesus was born on earth?

9. Pretend an unchurched friend asked you to explain the relationship between Jesus, God, and Jesus’ birth. In your own words, explain the eternal and the physical aspects of Jesus, the Word, the Son of God.

10. Bonus Question: Do an internet search to discern why Julius may have chosen December 25 as the Feast of the Nativity.
