

Incarnate God

by Melodie Rolfe

INTRODUCTION

I remember holding my first-born son. My husband and I were so happy. My son was beautiful. God gave us this son to protect, teach, and cherish. We were young, but God gave us the responsibility of raising a child. God trusted us to guide this little baby through life.

I can't imagine the awesome thoughts of Mary and Joseph when they first saw Jesus. Probably there was pain, worry, and fatigue. Then there were feelings of happiness, love, and protection. Finally, the humbling realization came that God trusted them to care for Jesus.

God himself came to our world in Jesus. Why did it happen? Jesus came to show God's ultimate love to us and provide forgiveness for our sins. Jesus' death on the Cross made it possible for us to receive the gift of salvation.

Jesus experienced the human life of growing up and becoming a man. He walked and talked like us. Yet He is God, the Son.

The **Trinity** is God, the Father; God, the Son; and God, the Holy Spirit. There are concepts that we as humans can't totally understand. The Trinity is one of these. But we know that God loves us. This week we will talk about the incarnate Jesus, God's Son, fully divine and fully human.

This week you will need:

- Weekend: Advent wreath with three purple candles and a pink candle. You can also use an online or mobile app for your advent wreath. November 30 was the first Sunday of Advent, the violet candle for prophecy was lit. A Savior has been promised.



MONDAY

READ JOHN 1:1-5, 14.

Jamie and Jason were twins who liked to study outer space. Jason was excited to find out there was a new planet in the outer reaches of the universe. He and Jamie tried to see it through the telescope even though they knew it was impossible.

That evening their father joined them at the telescope. Jamie and Jason knew what Dad was going to say. He said it every time they looked at the sky.

"Didn't God create a wonderful universe for us?" Dad asked.

"Yes, He did, Dad" Jamie replied.

"It is amazing," Dad said, "to think that the same God who created everything loves and cares for me."

Take the family for an evening walk or go online. Point out any constellations you know, either as you walk outside or look online. Remind everyone of the verses read earlier about Jesus being the light in the darkness.

Thank God for His creation. Thank God for sending Jesus, the Word, to be with us, helping us to know God more each day.

TUESDAY

READ ISAIAH 7:14.

The Old Testament prophets foretold the coming of Jesus. Isaiah says that a virgin will have a Son and his name will be Immanuel. **Immanuel** is a Faith Word. Immanuel means, "God with us." God showed His love to us by sending Jesus in human form. God never makes a mistake. The name Immanuel lets us know that Jesus is God among us. Jesus was human, but He was also divine.

Close with prayer. Thank God for sending Jesus who experienced life as a human. Pray that each family member will remember that God is with him or her.

Close by saying together, "Immanuel, God is with us!"

WEDNESDAY

READ JOHN 3:16-21.

Nicodemus was a religious leader in his town. Nicodemus was confused about Jesus' teachings. He met Jesus at night to talk with Him.

Jesus told Nicodemus a person must be born again. "How can a person do that?" Nicodemus asked Jesus.

Jesus explained that believing in Him was like starting a new life with different ideas and different goals.

Jesus wanted Nicodemus to be His follower; and He wants you to be His follower. Read or say aloud John 3:16. God sent Jesus to be our Savior.

Close by asking God to help family members know God loved them so much He sent Jesus to die for their sins.

T HURSDAY

READ 1 PETER 1:17-20.

Let each family member research and tell about an item and its approximate cost.

In today's Bible passage, Peter says Jesus' death on the Cross is more valuable than silver or gold. People cannot get into heaven by paying their way with money. Some people think that by doing many acts of kindness or giving a lot of money to churches or charities they will earn their way to heaven. Jesus, God's Son, provided salvation for sins by dying on the Cross. People only need to ask God's forgiveness and accept Jesus as their Savior.

According to 1 Peter 1:20, Jesus was chosen to be our Savior before creation. In other words, Jesus existed before anything was created. He is God, the Son.

Close with prayer. Suggest that each family member pray for areas of life where he or she needs God's help. Thank God for sending Jesus as our Savior.

F RIDAY

READ JOHN 14:8-11.

"Mom," Brent said, "I know Jesus is human, but I'm not sure I understand how He can be God too. How can He be both?"

"That is a difficult question to answer," Mom replied. "Jesus' disciples lived and worked with Him every day, and still they didn't understand. In John 14:8-11, Jesus told Philip that when he saw Jesus, he saw the Father."

Brent still didn't totally understand. "I'm glad I don't have to understand everything to believe in Jesus," Brent said.

People cannot completely understand how Jesus is both human and God. But the Bible makes it clear that He is. Jesus came to show us what God is really like and to tell us about God's great love for us.

Allow time for discussion or questions. This is a tough devotional thought, and children may struggle. Don't be afraid to admit you don't know the answers to their questions. Share with them how you deal with not fully understanding and yet you still believe.

Close with prayer. Ask God to help each family member believe in God and His Son, Jesus.

W EEEKEND

To celebrate Advent, use the Advent wreath in physical form or digital. This Sunday is the third Sunday of Advent. First, light the two purple candles. Today's candle is called the Shepherds' Candle. The third candle (pink) should be in the 9 o'clock position in the wreath. It is the candle of repentance, the Shepherds' Candle. It represents the joy the

shepherds knew that night in Bethlehem when they were told of the Messiah's birth. Celebrate God's announcement of His coming to the shepherds by singing "Silent Night."

Unit Bible Verse

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus."

Matthew 1:21a

