

CHRIST WAS BORN FOR THIS

DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

by Nan Allen

“ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID’S CITY”

Read I Samuel 17:12,57-58. This tells you why the town is called city of David.

Read Isaiah 9:6-7. How does this prophecy relate to the future birthplace of Jesus?

Read Micah 5:2. What does this prophet say about the city of Bethlehem?

Discuss: Why was Jesus’ birthplace important?

“GOOD CHRISTIAN MEN, REJOICE”

Read the lyrics to this great old Christmas carol. Find some of the reasons why God sent His Son.

One of them is that man is blest (or blessed) forevermore.

The first time God blessed man is recorded in Genesis 1:27-28. Read this passage and decide if that is the blessing brought to us through the birth of God’s Son.

Now read Ephesians 1:3-4. Is this blessing ours? What does it imply?

Another reason why Jesus came is so that we need not fear the grave (verse 3 of the song). Read Isaiah 25:8. What does the prophet say about this?

Read I Corinthians 15:54-57. Take comfort in these words.

Discuss: What are some other reasons why Christ was born? How do your answers translate into your life every day?

“O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL”

Read Isaiah 7:14. Next read Matthew 1:23. These are familiar passages that we associate with Messianic prophecies fulfilled at the birth of Jesus. But do you know the story behind Isaiah’s prophecy?

Read Chapter 7 of Isaiah to learn the backstory of the sign of Immanuel.

To whom was Isaiah prophesying? Why was the prophet using these words?

Now read Matthew 1:23 again and discover what the word “Immanuel” means.

Discuss: How does the meaning of the word apply to the situation found in Isaiah?

“SHINE, JESUS, SHINE”

Read 2 Corinthians 4:6. Read Genesis 1:3 and Psalm 18:28. How do these Scriptures relate to one another?

Does this encourage you?

Discuss: What does this say about God’s nature?

“BLESSINGS”

Read 2 Corinthians 4:7-9. Now read Jesus’ words recorded in John 15:20. Was this supposed to comfort the listeners?

Read Romans 8:31-39.

Discuss: Does this give you comfort? How do you claim these promises during times of fear or despair?

“HE HAS COME FOR US (GOD REST YE MERRY, GENTLEMEN)”

No one knows who wrote this carol, but it was first published in 1833. It is even used in Charles Dickens’s *A Christmas Carol*. A new chorus, “He Has Come for Us,” written by Meredith Andrews and Jason Ingram, contemporizes the song.

Read Luke 2:8-20. Are the themes of this Christmas carol and the new chorus found in Luke’s description of Jesus’ birth?

Discuss: What does this teach you about the reason for Christ’s birth?

“NO MORE NIGHT”

This might seem like a strange song choice for a Christmas musical. However, we still believe that it fits the theme of the blessings that God made available to us through His Son.

Read Revelation 22:1-5. The song is built around this Scripture verse. What is the setting in which these blessings are given?

Discuss: What things do you most look forward to when you get to heaven?

“CHRIST WAS BORN FOR THIS”

Read this lyric and make a list of the reasons why Christ was born.

Now read John 3:16, John 8:32, John 12:24, and Hebrews 9:26. These are Scriptures that speak of Christ's purpose.

Discuss: Can you think of other Scriptures that declare why Jesus came?

“JOYFUL, JOYFUL, WE ADORE THEE”

includes “Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come” and “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Read the words of Jesus found in John 15:10-12.

Discuss: What did He mean by “complete joy”? (Hint: You may need to read the verses before and after this passage.)