

# Let the Little Children Come

## Lesson 14. A VERY SPECIAL GIFT

- Purpose:
- a) To introduce the birth of Jesus.
  - b) To introduce the concept that God brought Himself “out of the darkness and into the light” with the birth of Jesus.
  - c) To allow the child to realize that Jesus was a “gift of self” from God.
  - d) That this gift was a gift of love. (For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.)

Materials: A large box, simply gift-wrapped in gold, inside of which are a number of pictures (one on top of another )depicture the story of Jesus’ birth.

(For example, a picture of the Annunciation, on top of  
a picture of Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem  
a picture of the baby  
a picture of the shepherds, etc.)

- Presentation:
- 1) Ask the children if they remember where the best gifts come from. If they don’t remember, remind them that they come from inside of us...and ultimately come from God.
  - 2) Ask them if they remember how we can “see” these gifts. (By this time, they should know that gifts must be taken out of the darkness and brought into the light. If they’ve forgotten, remind them.)
  - 3) Remind them, also, that we bring these gifts into the light because of “love.”
  - 4) Tell the children that God brought lots of things out of the darkness and into the light...like the water and the land, the plants and the animals...and gave them to people (like our own parents give us food and clothes, etc.)...but people still didn’t really understand that God gave them these things simply because He loved them.
  - 5) Tell the children that God decided to give them a very special gift...one that would make it very clear how much He loved them.

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- 6) Tell them that He decided to bring Himself into the light...so that everyone would know what God was really like.
- 7) Show them the large package and tell them that this gift isn't wrapped with lots of ribbon and fancy stuff because God feels that what's inside is more important than wrappings. And although the real gift wasn't in a box, anymore that the gifts inside of us aren't in boxes, His gift did come in a very simple, un-fancy way.
- 8) Tell the children, "This is how it happened"; and open the box and tell the story of Jesus' birth as you take the pictures out of the box, one at a time.
- 9) After you have finished, remind the children that we take the gifts that are inside of us...like a hug or a kiss, and we bring them out of the darkness and into the light because of love.
- 10) Tell them that God had a gift inside of Him...and He brought it out of the darkness and into the light because of love, too. And that gift was Jesus.
- 11) Tell them that Jesus was a very, very special gift because, through Him, people could see God more clearly...and so it was really God who was brought out of the darkness and into the light when Jesus was born.
- 12) Tell the children that even Jesus' name means "God to be opened"...and if we look closely at His gift, Jesus, it is God who is seen more clearly!
- 13) Tell the children that since Jesus is so special, every year there is a very special birthday party for Him...and everyone's invited!
- 14) Tell them that they were at it last year...and the year before...in fact, every year since they were born. See if they can guess when it is.
- 15) Lead them into discovering that we celebrate Jesus' birth at Christmas.

Song: Sing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus.