

Christmas Day

The Nativity of Our Lord · Late Elementary · Parent Edition

For the parent: Read each part aloud and work through the questions together. Your answers are printed in blue italics, so no preparation is needed. Your child uses the Student Edition.

Step 1 Understand the Collect

A collect is a short prayer the pastor prays for the whole church. Here is today's collect:

Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Words to know. *Only-begotten Son:* God's one and only Son. *In the flesh:* with a real human body. *Bondage:* being a prisoner or a slave. *The Word* (in the Gospel): a name for Jesus, God's Son. *Dwelt:* lived.

1. We are talking to Almighty _____.
Answer: God.
2. We ask that Jesus' birth would set us _____.
Answer: Free.
3. We ask to be set free from the _____ of sin.
Answer: Yoke.

Step 2 Understand the Gospel

John 1:1-14

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. **4** In him was life, and the life was the light of men. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. **7** He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. **8** He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

9 The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. **10** He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. **11** He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. **12** But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, **13** who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. **14** And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

1. Who is "the Word"?
Answer: Jesus, God's Son. Verse 14 says the Word became flesh.
2. What was made through the Word?
Answer: All things (verse 3).
3. What shines in the darkness?
Answer: The light (verse 5).
4. What did the Word become, and where did He live?
Answer: He became flesh and lived among us (verse 14).

Step 3 Find the Collect in the Gospel

Say to your child: Our prayer asks that Jesus' birth would set us free. In John's Gospel, God's Son comes into our world. Let's find our prayer in the story.

1. The collect speaks of Jesus' birth *in the flesh*. Find the verse that says the Word became flesh.

Answer: Verse 14: "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us."

2. The collect asks to be *set free*. Read verse 12. What does Jesus give to those who believe in Him?

Answer: "The right to become children of God." Slaves are set free and made God's children.

3. Sin is like a dark prison. What does verse 5 say about the darkness?

Answer: "The darkness has not overcome it." Jesus' light wins.

Parent note. Jesus sets us free by becoming one of us. He took on our flesh so He could keep God's Law for us and die in our place. In Baptism God made us His children, the gift verse 12 describes.

Step 4 The Small Catechism

The Second Article. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. **What does this mean?** I believe that Jesus Christ, **true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins,** from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

1. Luther says Jesus is "true God." Which verse in John 1 says the Word is God?

Answer: Verse 1: "the Word was God."

2. Luther also says Jesus is "true man." Which verse says that?

Answer: Verse 14: "the Word became flesh."

3. Luther says Jesus "has redeemed me... from all sins." What does the collect ask Jesus' birth to do for us?

Answer: Set us free from the bondage of sin.

Step 5 Wrap It All Up

Pray today's collect together one more time. Then ask:

1. What does Jesus do for you by becoming flesh?

Answer: He becomes one of us so He can take my place, set me free from sin, and make me a child of God (John 1:12).