

THE
MESSIAH,
THE CURSE,
AND THE
MANGER

Week 3



Worship with us this

Advent

Scan the QR code to
tune your heart to Jesus



Welcome!

We are glad God called you to worship with us this Advent season!

As we track along with the sermon series, this guide is meant to travel with you. You don't need to be a Bible expert to use it. Think of it like a simple conversation starter that helps you look at Scripture together, listen for what God might be saying, and talk honestly about life.

You can use it one-on-one, with a friend, with your family, or with a LifeGroup. Simply:

- Take your time
- Be curious
- Ask questions
- Breathe

Week Three Theme:
The Innocent for the Guilty
(Substitutionary Atonement)

Group Discussion

1

CONNECT (pray before starting)

- What are you thankful for?
- What has been challenging?
- Is there anyone you know who needs help?

2

LOOK BACK (in follow-up meetings)

- What do you remember from our last reading?
- Did the passage change what you did this week?
- Did you talk with anyone? What happened?

3

READ & RETELL

- Read a Daily Bible passage.
- In your own words, retell what was read.
- What stood out or confused you?

4

READ AGAIN & LOOK

- What is God like? Jesus? The Holy Spirit?
- What is His plan here? What does He care about?
- How can we have hope in Jesus?

5

READ, LOOK AGAIN & ASK

- How are humans described here?
- Where do you see yourself in this passage?

6

GROW

- What do I need to start doing?
- What do I need to stop doing?
- What is one small step I can take this week?

7

B.L.E.S.S.ONE (pray after your discussion)

- Who needs to hear this? How can you share?
- Who could read the Bible with you?
- Who can help you take a next step toward Jesus?



Sunday 12/14 - Isaiah 53:1-6

- The Servant, Jesus, carries our sin, sorrow, and guilt.
- We are healed and forgiven because He was wounded for us.

Monday 12/15 - Isaiah 53:7-12

- Jesus, the Servant, suffers silently and willingly.
- His sacrifice brings many into peace with God.



Tuesday 12/16 - Romans 3:21-26

- God makes us right with Him through Jesus, not by our works.
- Jesus' blood takes our punishment and shows God's mercy.

Wednesday 12/17 - 1 Peter 3:18

- Christ suffered once for all to bring us close to God.
- Jesus, the righteous, died for us, the unrighteous, so we could have life.

Thursday 12/18 - Romans 4:20-25

- Abraham was called righteous because he trusted God.
- We are counted righteous the same way, through faith in the risen Jesus.

Friday 12/19 - 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

- God makes us a new creation, no longer defined by our past.
- God pays our debt through Jesus and sends us to share that message.

Saturday 12/20 - John 10:11-18

- Jesus is the Good Shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep.
- He dies willingly and has authority to raise His life up again.

Week Three Overview



Theme:

Just as Aslan came to rescue Narnia, Jesus came to rescue us.

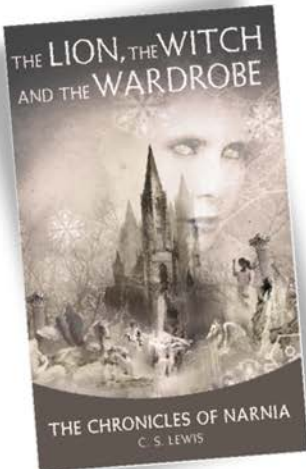


Big Idea:

I am made alive with Jesus!

Bible Reading:

1 Peter 3:18



Book Reading:

The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe

Chapters
8-11



Talk About It:



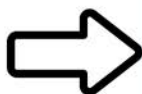
What happened that the snow was melting?
(Aslan had come to Narnia)



Why was Jesus born?



How can we be made right with Jesus?
(By acknowledging our sin and accepting His forgiveness)



Fun Activity:

Keep a jar in a central location with small pieces of paper. Everyone write down acts of service to do and place them in the jar. Choose a piece of paper and live out that act of service, showing people Jesus through your sacrifice.



Prayer Focus:

Ask God to move through you to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

As Jesus sacrificed, may you sacrifice your time and selfishness to show love to others.

Youth

Key Takeaway:

The innocent dies in the place of the guilty. Every one of us has an Edmund moment—times we chose ourselves, betrayed trust, or did what we knew was wrong. In *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, Edmund deserves death, yet Aslan steps in and takes his place, and the cracking of the Stone Table signals a power greater than death.



This mirrors the heart of the gospel: Isaiah 53 describes a Savior pierced for our sins, Romans 3 shows God as both just and forgiving through Jesus' sacrifice, and 1 Peter 3:18 declares that the righteous died for the unrighteous to bring us to God. Jesus takes our place, pays our debt, and begins to melt the winter of guilt—the incredible power of grace.



Quick Questions:



Where do you see your own “Edmund story” in your life — moments you chose self over what’s right?



Why is Jesus' substitution so essential to understanding Christmas and why He came?



How does accepting grace (instead of trying to “earn” forgiveness) help you step out of guilt and into freedom?

Fun Challenge:

The Costly Treat:

Grab a delicious treat and gather your people!

Choose one person to be the "Substitute"—the one who will take the "cost" on behalf of everyone else.

The Substitute will go around asking each person, "Would you like a treat?"

Explain that receiving the treat comes with a price... but the Substitute will pay it. Their "payment" could be 10 push-ups, a silly task, a quick chore—anything fun and creative!

After the Substitute "pays," the person receives their treat.



Talk about it:

- How did it feel knowing someone else paid the price for your treat?
- What does this show us about what Jesus has done for us?

Faith Challenge:

CONFESS

Confess one area where you've been carrying guilt, shame, or self-reliance.

Take five minutes alone with God and ask Him to help you walk in freedom this week.

RECIEVE

Receive Jesus' forgiveness — say out loud, "The debt is paid."

REJOICE

Rejoice by thanking Jesus for taking your place, loving you enough to die for you, and breaking the Stone Table of your sin.



Kids

Jesus loves you!

Gods

Riches

At

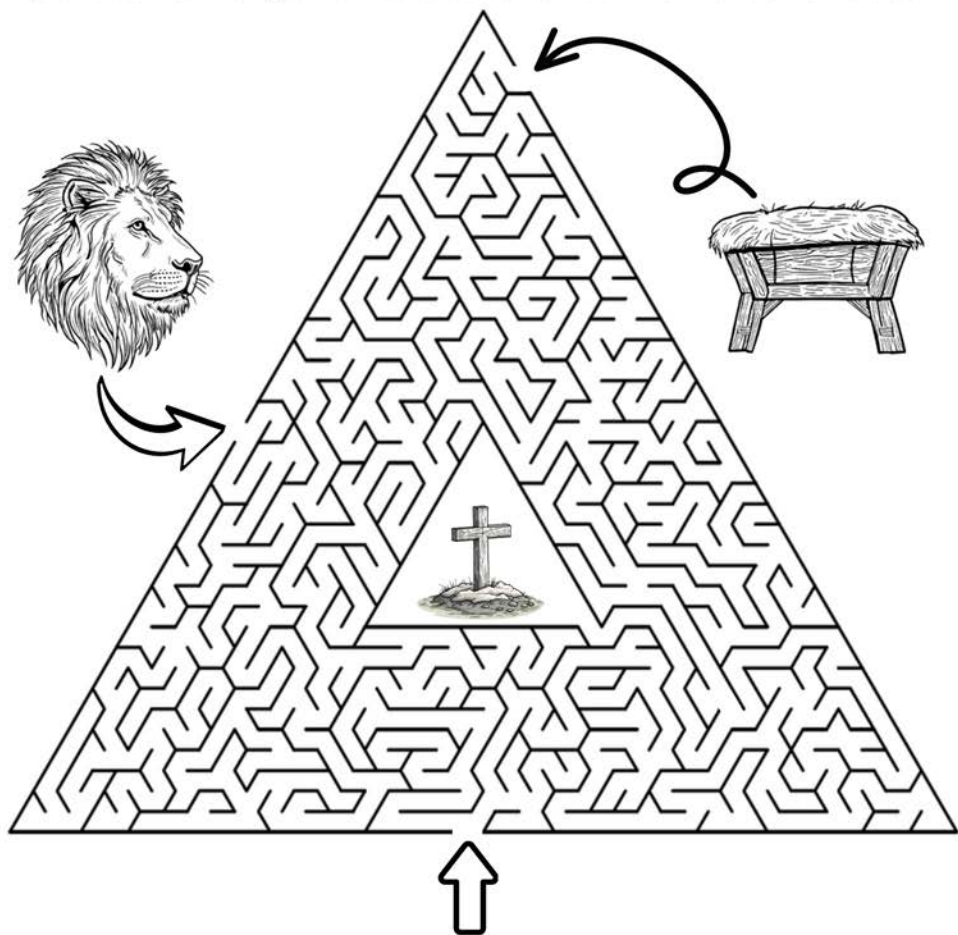
Christ's

Expense



Jesus Is A-MAZE-Ing

Aslan went to the Stone Table for Edmund. Jesus was born and went to the Cross for you. Go through the maze connecting each picture: the Manger to the Cross and Aslan to the Stone Table.



WORD SCRAMBLE

craeg _ _ _ _ _
sujes _ _ _ _ _
eovl _ _ _ _ _
socrs _ _ _ _ _



To print full size activity pages



Worship Times

Thursdays ~ 7:00pm

Sundays ~ 8:45am & 10:30am

Christmas Candlelight Services

Sunday, December 21
7:00pm ~ Chapel

Wednesday, December 24
7:00pm ~ Family Life Center
9:00pm ~ Chapel

