

- 1. What are some traditions you have at Christmas time in your family?
- 2. Read John 1:1-14. In this passage, who is the Word? Do you get the impression that the Word is God Himself or someone else? Read Luke 5:20,21 and explain why it is so important to us as Christians that Jesus was God in the flesh.
- 3. Read Colossians 1:15-17. In calling Jesus the "firstborn" is it saying that Jesus was a creation of God so there was a time that he did not exist? What does it mean?
- 4. When the Bible tells us that Jesus is the life and light of the world, what do you think that means?
- 5. Read John 1:12,13. What do these verses say happens to those who believe in Christ? Some people say that all humans are God's children, is this true? When it says that these people are born into God's family, what kind of birth is it speaking about? What kind of birth is it not speaking about? How does this relate to what Jesus told Nicodemus in John chapter 3?
- 6. I there anyone in your life who needs the life and light of Jesus this Christmas season? What can you do to bring Jesus to them?

ANSWERS

- 1. Spend some time sharing what people do to celebrate Christmas in their families.
- 2. We know in this passage that the Word is Jesus because in verse 14 it says the Word became flesh and lived with them. The Word is said to be God, not someone else. It is so vital that Jesus was God in the flesh because if he was not God, then he could not have died for our sins because the Jews knew, correctly, that only God can forgive sin. If Jesus was not God himself, our sins have not been forgiven.
- 3. The word firstborn can refer to the order of birth but it is also used as a title, or a position of superiority and preeminence. Israel was called the firstborn of Jehovah in the Old Testament, which designated their position as God's chosen people, not order of birth. Jesus is preeminent in all things, which is how it is used in this passage.
- 4. Jesus is the life of the world because we saw in John 1 that everything was created by him and for him, so he is the source of physical life. We also know that he is the source of eternal life which we receive by trusting him as our savior. He is the light of the world because he brought the truth about God to us: When you see Jesus, you see God and what he is like. The truth is also referred to as light, it illumines the understanding of who God is and what he is like.
- 5. Those who trust in Christ as Savior are given a new birth, as spiritual birth, and they are adopted into God's family. God is the creator of everyone but he is only the Father of those who trust in Jesus as their savior. It is not speaking about a physical birth, which is why being physically born into this world does not make you a child of God. This is the exact same birth Jesus told Nicodemus about in John 3 when he said you must be "born from above".
- 6. Suggestion: Invite them to come to one of our Christmas services, many times people will come on Christmas when they would come no other time. Give them one of the Grace Church Christmas boxes when you invite them.