Introduction: Christmas is about "The Baby" that changed the world

An angel tells Mary about – the Baby!

Mary couldn't comprehend having – the Baby!

Joseph's problem with Mary is – the Baby!

And angel tells Joseph to raise — the Baby!

A manger is the birthplace of — the Baby!

Shepherds come and worship — the Baby!

Wise men follow a star to find — the Baby!

Herod wants to kill – the Baby!

Let's shift the focus from the "Christmas Story" to the profound questions it raises:

1. Why did He come?

2. Who is He?

3. What does He want?



The Christmas Story – From Heaven's Perspective and Three Questions that Demand an Answer



Question #1: Why did He come?

Answer: Colossians 1:1-14

Author and Context:

Colossians 1:1-2

- The Apostle Paul A.D. 61
- Affluent town, multi-cultural, the new Church
- False teaching attacking God and Christ
- 1. Jesus left heaven to GIVE us a ______ that Colossians 1:3-8 will never disappoint.
 - He gives thanks to the Father...
 - For their faith in Christ.
 - For their love of other believers.
 - This faith and love springs from the hope...
 - Stored up in heaven for them.
 - Since they received the Gospel of grace.
 - This Gospel (Good News)...
 - Is the Word of Truth
 - Went around the world
 - Consistently bears fruit and increases
 - Came via Epaphras

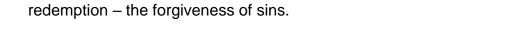


What Child is This? (Part 1)

Why did He Come?

Colossians 1:1-14

2.	Je	sus	s left heaven to REVEAL God's	Colossians 1:9-11
	for each of our lives.			
	•	<u>Fc</u>	or this reason,	
	•	<u>He</u>	e asks God to fill them with the knowledge of His will -	
		0	In all spiritual wisdom and understanding.	
	•	<u>He</u>	e prays that they will walk worthy of the Lord.	
		0	Pleasing Him in all respects.	
		0	Bearing fruit in every good work.	
		0	Increasing in the (experiential) knowledge of God.	
		0	Strengthened with all power according to His glorious mig	ght.
			So that they may have:	
			> Great endurance.	
			> Great patience.	
3.			s left heaven to RESCUE us from therkness.	Colossians 1:12-14
	•	<u>He</u>	e joyously gives thanks to the Father who	



o Brought us into the Kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have

o Rescued us from the dominion of darkness.

o Qualified us to share in the inheritance of saints in the Kingdom of Light.



What Child is This? (Part 1)

Why did He Come?

Colossians 1:1-14

	• <u>Ho</u>	ow did He rescue us?			
	1.	He	_ you – your account has been approved		
	2.	He	_ you as an heir – you're in His will.		
	3.	He	sin, death, and Satan through the cross		
		and resurrection.			
	4.	He	_ you out of the slave market of sin and		
			you from all your sins.		
<u>Cc</u>	onclus	ion: Why did He come?			
He	came	because He	and wants to have a		
personal, intimate,			with you forever.		
Q	uestic	ons for Application and Discus	ssion:		
1.	1. What most amazes you about God's plan revealed in the Christmas story?				
2.	2. Which of the 3 reasons for Jesus leaving heaven resonated most deeply with you? Why?				
3.	B. How might you allow heaven's perspective of Christmas to transform how you experience and celebrate the holiday?				



4. For whom did Jesus come? How will they know?