

Fill in the Blanks

The Birth of Christ and Christmas

Instructions: Complete this "Fill in the Blanks" Activity to remind yourself of when Jesus Christ was born and why we don't celebrate Christmas. (Use the "Word Bank" on the last page if you need help.)

The true story in the B _ _ _ _ about Christ's birth is very different to the Christmas story that people tell today. It even gives us clues that J _ _ _ _ wasn't born on Christmas day!

For example, the B _ _ _ _ tells us that:

1) Jesus was born in Bethlehem when a c _ _ _ _ _ was being taken - and we know that this census usually took place in S _ _ _ _ _ or O _ _ _ _ _ , not in December.

2) The shepherds were still out in the f _ _ _ _ _ at night when Jesus was born - but the shepherds didn't stay out in the fields at n _ _ _ _ in December because it was too c _ _ _ _ !

These clues show us that J _ _ _ _ _ wasn't born in December. He was probably born in the early a _ _ _ _ _ , possibly around the time of the F _ _ _ _ _ of Tabernacles.

Jesus Christ

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People celebrate Christ's birthday on December 25th because that was the day the R _ _ _ _ Church decided it should be kept.

They chose this day because people were already celebrating a festival then - a pagan festival that the Romans called S _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ .

During this festival, which celebrated the birth of the S _ _ , people d _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ their homes with lights and greenery from trees and gave g _ _ _ _ to children and the poor.

When December 25th was chosen as the day to celebrate Christ's birthday, people began to celebrate the b _ _ _ _ of the S _ _ of G _ _ during this festival instead of the birth of the S _ _ .

In time, this p _ _ _ _ f _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ became the "Christian" festival we call Christmas.

Son of God

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We don't celebrate Christmas because Jesus wasn't born then and because it is still celebrated just like the pagan festival Saturnalia was. And *G* __ tells us not to keep pagan festivals or live the way that pagan or *G* _____ nations do!

But we do need to remember that the birth of Jesus was a **WONDERFUL** event. It was **SO** important that God sent an a ____ to announce it!

When Jesus was born, a large group of angels **PRAISED** God because they knew that Jesus is the *S* __ of *G* __, our *S* _____, and the *K* ____ who will soon come to bring peace to the whole world.

So, whenever you hear people talking about "baby Jesus" around the time of Christmas, remember that:

Jesus is not a baby, but our

soon-coming

King!

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This is an optional page for children who need help filling in the blanks or with spelling.

Word Bank

Instructions: These are the words you need to fill in the blanks. They may be used more than once.

angel

autumn

Bible

birth

census

cold

decorated

Feast

festival

fields

Gentile

gifts

God

Jesus

King

night

October

pagan

Roman

Saturnalia

Saviour

September

Son

Sun