

HE WAS BORN TO BE GOD WITH US

(15–20 minutes, easy set-up)

Use this outline and any of the corresponding activities to share the Biblical Truth with students.

Introduction: Think about your favorite teacher in school. You interact with him or her as your instructor. But consider all the other roles a teacher can have. He could be a husband, a dad, a granddad, an uncle, a coach, or a sports enthusiast. She could be a wife, a mom, a grandmother, an aunt, an artist, or a weightlifter. It's not unusual for people to fill many roles, some may even surprise us. Likewise, God sent His Son to us to fulfill multiple roles. The first of these is that God sent His Son Jesus to be with us.

1. God promised to send His Son to be God with us (Isaiah 7:14-16).

Biblical Background: Judah (the Southern Kingdom of Israel) was being threatened by the armies of neighboring countries. During these most difficult times, God encouraged the people with the promise to send His very own Son, who would be called Immanuel, which meant “God with us” (v. 14). God explained that His Son would live humbly, and would know the difference between good and evil (v. 15). Finally, God promised that, when invading armies threatened Judah, these armies would not last forever (v. 16).

Illustration: The promises that mean the most are the most costly to the one who promises. When God promised to send Immanuel, He willingly promised what would cost Him the most . . . the one and only Son He had. God's promise was not an idea that happened in the spur of the moment. Rather, it was a part of God's plan for His created world from the beginning of its creation.

Application: Because **God Is**, He has the power to send His Son to be with us. And because God loves us, He willingly sent His Son to be God with us.

2. God announced the fulfillment of this promise through the birth of His Son (Matthew 1:21b-23).

Biblical Background: God sent an angel to Joseph to explain that the child Joseph's betrothed, Mary, carried was Jesus, His Son (v. 21b). To put this event in historical context, Matthew recorded that the event of Jesus' birth fulfilled God's promise in Isaiah 7:14-16 (vv. 22-23).

Illustration: How hard is it to wait for Christmas morning to arrive? The presents are wrapped under the tree, beckoning you to come and shake them to see if you can figure out what's in them. Sometimes, waiting to open those presents is almost more than we can stand.

Application: The birth of God's Son on that first Christmas morning was the end of a long period of waiting as the world awaited the promised Messiah, who had been promised so many years before to God's servant, Isaiah.

Conclusion: God, in His infinite wisdom, could have used any number of ways to restore His people back to Himself. Yet, He chose the one way that cost Him the most . . . He sent His Son to be with us. John recorded, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life” (3:16). God’s love for us was overwhelmingly demonstrated through the gift of His Son to be with us.