

# Winter Quarter 2018-19

## *Adults and Teens*

### God Comes to Earth

#### The Advent of Immanuel

December 2	<b>The Sign of Immanuel</b> . . . . .	<i>Isaiah 7:1-4, 7-16</i>
December 9	<b>The Promise of a Divine Ruler</b> . . . . .	<i>Isaiah 9:1-7</i>
December 16	<b>The Righteous Branch</b> . . . . .	<i>Isaiah 11:1-10</i>
December 23	<b>The Birth of Christ (Christmas)</b> . . . . .	<i>Matthew 1:18-25</i>
December 30	<b>Wise Men Worship Christ</b> . . . . .	<i>Matthew 2:1-12</i>

#### Christ Pursuing His Mission

January 6	<b>Christ's Identity Established</b> . . . . .	<i>Matthew 3:13—4:11</i>
January 13	<b>Teaching and Healing</b> . . . . .	<i>Matthew 4:12-25</i>
January 20	<b>Christ's New Commands</b> . . . . .	<i>Matthew 5:33-45</i>
January 27	<b>Christ's New Teachings</b> . . . . .	<i>Matthew 6:1-13</i>

#### Christ's Authority Displayed

February 3	<b>Far-Reaching Authority</b> . . . . .	<i>Matthew 8:5-13</i>
February 10	<b>Astonishing Authority</b> . . . . .	<i>Matthew 8:23-34</i>
February 17	<b>Authority to Forgive Sins</b> . . . . .	<i>Matthew 9:1-8</i>
February 24	<b>Delegated Authority</b> . . . . .	<i>Matthew 10:1-15</i>

The first unit in this quarter's lessons is titled "The Advent of Immanuel" and covers the month of December. Leading up to two familiar lessons from Matthew about the birth of Christ, the unit begins with three lessons from Isaiah. This is appropriate, as Isaiah says more about the coming of the Messiah than any other Old Testament prophet.

Although the lessons from Isaiah focus on texts that revolve around Jesus' birth, they include other details concerning the Messiah. Of note is the fact that some of these prophecies actually foretell events that will not occur until the Second Coming. One of the difficulties in studying the Prophets is that they do not make distinctions between the Messiah's first and second comings. Even from our vantage point, these distinctions are not always clear. Even so, these texts from Isaiah clearly depict the Messiah as virgin born (7:14), the Prince of Peace (9:6), and the One on whom the Spirit rests (11:2).

The second unit, "Christ Pursuing His Mission," continues in Matthew for January. Between lessons 5 and 6, some thirty years of silence ensue in the scriptural record. At about age thirty (Luke 3:23), Jesus began His public ministry. After submitting to the baptism of John, Christ launched His own ministry. But before He actually began to teach, He did battle with the devil in the desert. Both His baptism and His temptation set the stage for the most amazing three years in the history of the world.

Fulfilling prophecy once again, Christ began His ministry by healing the sick and performing other miracles. While this was important in identifying who He was (John 20:30-31), being a miracle worker was not the primary reason He came to earth.

Two lessons from the Sermon on the Mount help us understand that Christ's message was quite different from what most people expected. His teachings in this most famous sermon still challenge us today.

The final unit, "Christ's Authority Displayed," reveals His authority in a number of realms. This included authority over disease and creation itself. The final lesson concerns the delegated authority Christ gave to His disciples. Like them, we have been called to go to our world with His message. If we diligently study these lessons, we will be better prepared to do that very thing.

# Winter Quarter 2018-19

## *Beginners, Primaries, and Juniors*

### God's Love

#### Wholehearted Love

December 2	<b>God's Kind of Love</b> . . . . .	<i>I Corinthians 13:1-13</i>
December 9	<b>God's Patient Love</b> . . . . .	<i>Nehemiah 9:25-31</i>
December 16	<b>Rejoicing in God's Love</b> . . . . .	<i>Luke 1:39-56</i>
December 23	<b>God So Loved the World (Christmas)</b> . . . . .	<i>Matthew 1:18-25; John 3:16-17</i>

#### How God Loves

December 30	<b>God Is Love</b> . . . . .	<i>I John 4:7-19</i>
January 6	<b>God Truly Cares</b> . . . . .	<i>Exodus 2:23—3:10</i>
January 13	<b>Showing Love to Enemies</b> . . . . .	<i>Luke 6:27-36; 22:47-51</i>
January 20	<b>A Loving Stranger</b> . . . . .	<i>Luke 10:25-37</i>
January 27	<b>God's Loving Correction</b> . . . . .	<i>Hebrews 12:1-13</i>

#### The Love of Jesus

February 3	<b>Caring for the Crowds</b> . . . . .	<i>Matthew 15:29-39</i>
February 10	<b>Jesus' Care for the Sick</b> . . . . .	<i>Mark 1:29-34, 40-45</i>
February 17	<b>Jesus' Loving Ways</b> . . . . .	<i>Luke 7:11-22</i>
February 24	<b>Our Loving High Priest</b> . . . . .	<i>Hebrews 4:14—5:9</i>

“Love” is a word that has as many meanings as there are individuals in your class. Because of love’s many nuances, establishing a biblical standard is vital to building a solid foundation for a dynamic Christian life.

We each see God through the eyes of our experiences; those experiences likewise color our view of the world. It is vital that we continually study Bible truths and biblical examples to renew our minds, enabling us to represent Christ to a lost world.

The lessons this quarter begin by clarifying the aspects of God’s unconditional and limitless love. From I Corinthians 13, lesson 1 teaches children to serve God and others from a heart filled with God’s kind of love.

In lesson 2, God demonstrates His patient, unconditional, and limitless love as the children learn how God dealt with disobedient Israel.

Lessons 3 and 4 celebrate the Christmas season first by studying Mary’s hymn of praise when she learned she would be the mother of the Messiah. The extent of God’s love for us continues as we focus on the Christmas story, with a special emphasis on John 3:16. God sent His Son to take the punishment for our sins.

The second unit illustrates how God loves and how He expects us to emulate Christ’s compassion to those around us. Our passage in I John 4 (lesson 5) tells us that we are to love others because we love God.

As we study in lesson 6 of God’s concern and compassion for His people who were enslaved in Egypt, we learn about His care for us during times of trouble.

Love demonstrates itself in action. Lessons 7 and 8 answer two vital questions: “How does God want me to treat my enemies?” and “Who am I supposed to care for?” The necessity of God’s loving correction of His children is the subject of lesson 9.

The next unit continues with a presentation of Jesus Christ and His unfailing compassion for those around Him.

When He fed the four thousand, Jesus cared for the physical needs of the crowds who had followed Him for three days. Jesus’ compassion for the multitudes is shown in lesson 10.

Lesson 11 demonstrates Jesus’ compassion for individuals as He healed Peter’s mother-in-law of a fever and healed

the man with leprosy with His touch. Each person who came to Jesus was healed completely. The healing did not depend on the amount or quality of their faith; rather, it was a direct result of the love of Jesus.

In lesson 12 Jesus raised the only son of a widow outside the city of Nain. From this story children can learn to turn to Jesus whenever they are in need.

Our last lesson assures the children of Jesus' care. He not only knows our needs and is waiting to help but also is pleading our cause, praying for us in heaven.

To truly love people, we must see them through God's eyes—not through the eyes of our past or our feelings.

Real love demands much that is beyond our human ability. In fact, loving others with God's kind of love is impossible without the power of God's Holy Spirit working through us.