

# The great gift



*God sent his Son into the world. This great gift is proof of God's love for mankind. We summarize the previous lessons dealing with the birth and first months of Jesus' life. We want to give God and his Son a great gift too. We give them our heart!*

8

The children rejoice that God sent his Son into the world.  
In thankfulness they give him their whole heart.

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tomorrow is Christmas. Like so many other children, Stephanie can hardly wait. It has seemed to her all day as if time were standing still. Evening has come and Stephanie is lying in bed, but she cannot sleep. She is far too excited at the prospects of what the morrow will bring. She keeps thinking about everything that is going to happen ...

1

Eventually the little girl calls her mother who comes to sit down beside her and asks: "Stephanie, what is the matter?" "I'm not tired yet. I keep thinking of Christmas." "I can well imagine that. After all, Christmas is a very special day. But with all this anticipation and preparation, we must not forget why we celebrate Christmas. I'll tell you the story of Jesus. I hope you will be able to sleep after that." "But we have heard that story in Sunday-school already, Mom. It is a very, very old story, isn't it?" "Yes, you're right Stephanie. It all happened a long, long time ago, but I am always happy to think of it again, and I am especially happy to tell you about it. We should really be very thankful to God for having sent his dear Son into the world. By doing so, he gave us all a great and wonderful gift. Although all this happened so long ago, we know about it because it is written in the Bible. I could actually read the story to you from the Bible ..."

2

When Mother has finished reading and closes the Bible, Stephanie says: "You didn't read anything to me about the wise men from the East. They followed the brilliant star, found the special king and brought him precious gifts, which must have made Mary and Joseph very happy."

Stephanie quickly jumps out of bed, fetches her Sunday-school book and shows her mother the picture of the wise men from the East.

3

They page on a little further and look at the picture of Mary, Joseph and the baby on their way to Egypt. Mother remarks: "Unfortunately not all the people were happy with God's gift. But the Lord protected the little child wonderfully against its enemies. Also later, when the Lord Jesus was active and teaching publicly, many people did not understand him. Some even opposed him. But those who recognized where he came from, and believed that he is the Son of God, took his words to heart. One could say that they gave him their heart."

Stephanie has become quite sleepy by now. She feels contented and happy for she suddenly realizes what a great gift the dear Lord has given mankind by sending his Son to them.

Mother switches off the light and softly leaves the room. Stephanie has dropped off to sleep.

4/5



*God gave mankind his Son to save and redeem them.*

*We want to give him a gift too: our heart!*

- 1** Why is Stephanie so excited? (The children speculate about this. At this point the regional customs can be discussed.)
- 2** The children look at the pictures of the first lesson and discuss them. The story of Jesus' birth from the Bible can also be read here (Luke 1:26–38; 2:1–20).
- 3** We look at the pictures of the second and third lessons; these happenings are also recorded in the Bible.
- 4** God gave mankind a great gift when he sent his Son to the earth as Redeemer. We want to give him a great gift too: our heart. How do we do that? (By loving him. / By considering everything the Lord Jesus said and taught as being very important./ By trying to be like him. / By awaiting his return. / By accepting his servants who work in his name ...)
- 5** The children draw a beautiful frame around the picture of the Lord Jesus. The picture should show that God gave us his Son.  
On the opposite page the children draw themselves and also decorate the drawing with a lovely frame.  
The drawing should show that we want to give the Lord Jesus our heart.