

Sola Publishing Children’s Message Advent 4 – Year A		SOLA 
The Best Present of All		
Readings	1) Isaiah 7:10-17 2) Romans 1:1-7 3) Matthew 1:18-25	
Scripture Focus	Matthew 1:18-25	
Take Away		
Aids (pics, props, etc.)	There are several illustration sets on Free Bible Images in the New Testament > Birth of Jesus section. https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/	
Message Today, I’m going to tell you the first part of the Christmas story. People get married today when a man and a woman fall in love, have really big weddings, with fancy parties that cost a lot of money, and hopefully, they stay married until they die. Even when it’s hard sometimes, God likes it when people stay married. Long ago in the Bible, getting married was not like it is today. It was a contract between two families; more of a business choice than a love choice. When two families agreed that a marriage between a man and a woman was acceptable, a promise was made, and the couple would be engaged or betrothed for about a year before they were officially married and began living together. During that year, it was the man’s job to show he could provide a house for his wife and earn enough money to support any children they had. Getting married meant starting a family. Mary and Joseph’s families agreed it was okay for them to be married, and they were engaged. But before the year was up, and they could move into a house together, they found out that Mary was going to have a baby. Do you know how that happened? An angel came down from heaven, told her not to be afraid, but that she was going to have God’s Son. She didn’t understand and asked, “How would that work?” He said that the Holy Spirit would put the baby in her. Because she believed the Bible, she had great faith that the angel was telling the truth. And that was exactly what happened. Well, when she told Joseph everything, he didn’t know what to think or say. It was a crazy story! He could either marry her or walk away from her. But you see, just walking away wasn’t so easy then either. When people found out she was going to have a baby and wasn’t married, she would face harsh punishments. Maybe even death! So, Joseph decided to break the promise to marry her secretly. But this was God’s plan, and God’s plans always work out the way He wants them to. So, that night, while Joseph was trying to figure out what to do, when he fell asleep, an angel came to him in a dream. The angel said, “Joseph, son of David (calling him this was a big deal because the Bible said that the Savior would come from the family of David), don’t be afraid to have Mary as your wife. She told you the truth. This baby is from the Holy Spirit. She’s going to have a boy, and you will call him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” WOW! You know what happened next? When Joseph woke up, he remembered what God said in the Bible and what the angel said, and had faith. He decided to take Mary to be his wife. He was part of God’s prophecy. Remember what a prophecy is? It’s something that God promised would happen in the future. God’s promises have all come true. The promise was that a lady who had never been married		

or even been with a man before would have a baby who they would name Jesus or Immanuel. Does anybody remember what Immanuel means? It means GOD WITH US.

Wednesday is Christmas Eve. You may be looking forward to presents, but the best present you will ever get is Jesus coming to Earth to live with us and teach us about God, His Father, and heaven. The rest of Jesus' life we'll talk about later.

Repeat Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,
Thank you for keeping your promises.
Thank you for Jesus / coming to teach us / about you and heaven.
Thank you for loving us,
We love you. Amen.