

## **The Wonder of Christmas: The Wonder of a Name**

Study Guide for Small Group Discussion and Personal Application

Lynn Haven UMC – December 1, 2019 – Pastor Craig Carter

Additional resources available at [LynnHavenChristmas.com](http://LynnHavenChristmas.com)

### **Introduction:**

*The angel said to [the shepherds], “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. (Luke 2:10-11 NIV)*

According to a popular song of the season: “It’s the most wonderful time of the year!” Is that true? Not if we make it about ourselves!

What makes this time of the year so wonderful is described in the classic Christmas carol, *Joy to the World*. After beginning with the proclamation, “Joy to the world, the Lord is come,” the song ends, “He rules the world with truth and grace...and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.”

A wonder is defined as “a sense of awe, admiration, or amazement.” **The real wonder of Christmas is what it tells us: God loves us in a truly astonishing way.**

Today we’ll look at the **wonder of a name** given to the infant born in Bethlehem. Then, in subsequent weeks, we’ll be amazed at what the angels, the star, and the manger tell us about how much God loves you and me.

### **Digging Deeper**

In Psalm 17:7, David asks, “Show me the wonders of your great love.” (NIV) The Lord answered that prayer centuries later when His Son Jesus was born and entered into our world.

Because of Christmas, you and I no longer have to question God’s love for us, it’s been demonstrated supremely in and through Jesus Christ.

This Advent season, the four Sundays leading up to Christmas, we’ll attempt to recapture the wonder of Christmas that many of us experienced as children, but may have lost along the way. We’re going to do that, not by focusing on the sights and sounds of the season, but on God’s great love revealed through some of the elements of the Nativity story.

**Jesus is a wonderful name because He is a Savior who saves us from our sins, rescues us from our fears, and heals us from our infirmities.**

### **Discuss/Share:**

- When you hear Jesus called "Savior," what comes to mind?
- What are some needs we all have? Why is salvation our greatest need?
- In what ways do we place ourselves at the center of our lives? Is it sinful to act in these ways?
- What are some ways that we attempt to save ourselves and thus try to find our way back to God? What are some things we do to try to earn our salvation or pay back God for what He has done for us?
- What are some things that cause us to be afraid? How does Jesus calm our fears? Describe a fear that Christ has rescued you from and enabled you to overcome.
- Why are we content to live with our "infirmities" rather than asking God to deliver us from them?
- How have you experienced Christ's healing power?
- Ask Christ to heal you (or a loved one) from an "infirmity" that grips you (or them). Believe God that a new beginning is possible.
- Name a particular sin you struggle with and give it to Jesus so He can save you.

### **Conclusion:**

This and every season is a wonderful time of the year because of the wonder of a name – Jesus. As the angels declared at His birth, He is Christ (the Messiah) the Lord. But He is also our God who saves...and that, my friends, is good news of great joy!

Pray this prayer as you celebrate the wonder of the name that saves:

*Jesus, your name is beautiful and special. You are the Lord of salvation – our God who saves us from our sins, rescues us from our fears, and heals us from our infirmities. You are our Savior and that is good news that brings great joy! May the wonder of your name fill our hearts with peace this Christmas and always. In your precious name we pray. Amen.*