

## Christmas Advent Box: *Who is Jesus?*<sup>1</sup>

### 1. Jesus is the Word (and He gave us God's Word) (Bible)

- John 1:1 In the beginning was **the Word**, and **the Word** was with God, and **the Word** was God.
- John 1:14 And **the Word** became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.
- 2 Peter 1:2-4 May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. His divine power has granted to us **all things** that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us to His own glory and excellence, by **which He has granted to us His precious and very great promises**, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

### 2. Jesus is the Alpha and Omega (A & Z)

- Revelation 22:13 I am **the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.**"
- Revelation 1:4-8 ...Grace to you and peace from Him Who is and Who was and Who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before His throne, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood and made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion **forever and ever**. Amen. Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and **every** eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him, and **all** tribes of the earth will wail on account of Him. Even so. Amen. **"I am the Alpha and the Omega,"** says the Lord God, "Who is and Who was and Who is to come, the Almighty."

### 3. Jesus is the Creator (Little things: donkey, flower, bird, diamond, mirrors, snowflake, shell)

- John 1:2,3 He was in the beginning with God. **All things** were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made.
- Colossians 1:16 For **by Him all things were created**, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things were created through Him and for Him.

### 4. Jesus is Emmanuel (baby Jesus in manger)

- Matthew 1:23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a Son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

[Note: The baby Jesus is made from olive wood from Israel. Grandma and Grandad bought it at the Old Jerusalem Market from a Christian Arab man who owns an olive wood shop.]

### 5. Jesus is the Son of God (Mary, Angel, small baby in manger)

- Luke 1:26-33 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was

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<sup>1</sup> Created and compiled by Mardi Collier.

Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" 29 But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. 30 And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and **bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus.** 32 He will be great and will be called **the Son of the Most High.** And the Lord God will give to Him the throne of His father David, 33 And He will reign over the house of Jacob **forever**, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

- Matthew 3:16,17 And when Jesus was baptized, immediately He went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on Him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is **My beloved Son**, with Whom I am well pleased."

#### 6. Jesus is Christ the Lord—the Good news (angel, shepherd)

- Luke 2:8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. 10 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you **good news of great joy** that will be for **all** the people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is **Christ the Lord.**

#### 7. Jesus is God (wise man, camel, frankincense, myrrh)

- Matthew 2:1,2 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star when it rose and **have come to worship Him.**
- Matthew 2:11 And going into the house they saw the child with Mary His mother, and **they fell down and worshiped Him.** Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

[Note: The frankincense and myrrh also came from Jerusalem]

#### 8. Jesus is the Prince of Peace (crown)

- Isaiah 9:6 For to us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, **Prince of Peace.**
- John 14:27 **Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you.** Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

#### 9. Jesus is the Lamb of God (lamb)

- John 1:29 The next day he (John) saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "**Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!** 36 And looking upon Jesus as He walked, he saith, **Behold the Lamb of God!**

**10. Jesus is the Teacher (teacher sticker and a heart)**

- *Matthew 5:1,2 Seeing the crowds, He went up on the mountain, and when He sat down, His disciples came to Him. And He opened His mouth and **taught them**, saying: (the Sermon on the Mount followed.)*
- *Matthew 7:28,29 And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at **His teaching**, for **He was teaching** them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.*
- *Luke 11:1 Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when He finished, one of His disciples said to Him, "**Lord, teach us to pray**, as John taught his disciples."*
- *John 3:2 This man (Nicodemus) came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that **you are a teacher come from God**, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him."*
- *John 13:13 **You call Me Teacher and Lord**, and you are right, for so I am.*

**11. Jesus is the bread of life (miniature loaf of bread)**

- *John 6:35 Jesus said to them, "**I am the bread of life**; whoever comes to Me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst.*
- *John 6:48, 49 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. **I am the bread of life.***
- *John 6:51 **I am the living bread** that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is My flesh."*

**12. Jesus is the light of the world (lamp)**

- *John 8:12 Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "**I am the light of the world.** Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."*
- *John 1:4,5 In Him was life, and the life was **the light** of men. **The light** shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

**13. Jesus is the morning star (glittery star)**

- *Revelation 22:16 I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, **the bright morning star.***

**14. Jesus is the door (heart key and lock)**

- *John 10:7 So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **I am the door of the sheep.***
- *John 10:9 **I am the door.** If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.*

**15. Jesus is the Good Shepherd (Good Shepherd and sheep magnet / little sheep)**

- *Psalms 23:1 The Lord is my **Shepherd**; I shall not want.*
- *John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.*
- *John 10:11 **I am the Good Shepherd.** The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.*

- *John 10:14-15 **I am the Good Shepherd.** I know My own and My own know Me, 15 just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.*

[Note: One of Grandma's favorite Bible illustrations is that Jesus is our Good Shepherd and when we are saved, we are His little sheep. Because this is so encouraging to me, I wanted to get something from Israel showing this special relationship that we have with our Savior, so I prayed about it. At one of our very last stops, one of the most meaningful, I found this little magnet. It was one of the sites that could possibly have been the garden where Jesus' tomb was located and where the most important event in history—the Resurrection—may have occurred!]

#### 16. Jesus, the Servant (basin and towel)

- *Mark 10:43-45 But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave (servant) of all. **For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.***
- *John 13:3-5 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going back to God, 4 rose from supper. He laid aside His outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around His waist. 5 Then **He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet** and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around Him.*
- *John 13:14-17 **If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet,** you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 **For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.** 16 Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17 If you know these things, blessed (happy) are you if you do them.*

#### 17. Jesus is the Vine (grapes)

- *John 15:5 **I am the vine;** you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do **nothing**.*

#### 18. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life (arrow/compass)

- *John 14:6 Jesus said to him, **I am the way, and the truth, and the life.** No one comes to the Father except through Me.*

#### 19. Jesus is the Rock (rock from Nazareth)

- *1 Corinthians 10:4... and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the **spiritual Rock** that followed them, and **the Rock was Christ.***
- *Acts 4:11,12 This **Jesus is the stone** that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become **the cornerstone.** And there is salvation in **no one else**, for there is **no other name** under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.*

[Note: One of the reasons that Jesus used the illustration of rocks and stones is because Israel is an extremely rocky land. There are rocks of all sizes everywhere! We wondered how anything can grow. When we were on our trip there, we drove by Nazareth, which, sadly, is now an Arab city. Nearby, we were able to visit a little village that was made to look similar to what Nazareth would have looked like during the time of Jesus. Once again, it was very rocky. God worked it out so that I was able to get a rock for you from there to remind you that Jesus is the Rock.]

**20. Jesus is the King of kings and Lord of lords (small king on jewel)**

- Revelation 17:14 They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for **He is Lord of lords and King of kings**, and those with Him are called and chosen and faithful.
- Revelation 19:16 On His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, **King of kings and Lord of lords**.

**21. Jesus is Faithful and True (white horse)**

- Revelation 19:11 Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! **The One sitting on it is called Faithful and True**, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.

**22. Jesus is our Savior (cross from Israel)**

- 1 John 4:14 And we have seen and do testify that **the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world**.
- Acts 2:21-24 And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon **the name of the Lord shall be saved**. "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves know-- this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised Him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for Him to be held by it."
- Titus 3:3-6 For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of **God our Savior** appeared, **He saved us**, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us richly through **Jesus Christ our Savior**, so that being justified by His grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

[Note: This cross was one of our first priorities to find on our trip. It seemed fitting to find an olive wood one from Israel to signify what Jesus sacrificed for us. It's our prayer that each of you will come to know Him as your Savior and that you will love and serve Him all your days because of Who He is and what He has done for all of us!]

**23. Jesus is the resurrection and the life (clay tomb and stone)**

- John 11:25-27 Jesus said to her, "**I am the resurrection and the life**. Whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" She (Martha) said to Him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."
- John 10:17-18 For this reason the Father loves Me, because **I lay down my life that I may take it up again**. 18 No one takes it from Me, but **I lay it down of My own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again**. This charge I have received from My Father."
- Matthew 28:5-8 But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here, for **He has risen, as He said**. Come, see the place where He lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell His disciples

*that **He has risen from the dead**, and behold, He is going before you to Galilee; there you will see Him. See, I have told you." 8 So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and **great joy**, and ran to tell his disciples.*

[Note: Seeing an empty tomb in Israel was one of the most touching and memorable times for Grandma and Grandad, because it means that Jesus is alive! He broke the chains of sin and death and now we can be saved! It's what Christmas and Easter are all about and why we celebrate and why we have great joy!]

#### **24. Jesus is the Lion of the tribe of Judah (lion)**

- *Revelation 5:5 And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the **Lion of the tribe of Judah**, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.*

#### **25. Jesus is the Gift (tiny wrapped box with bow—tiny bottle of water inside)**

- *John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that **He gave His only Son**, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.*
- *Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but **the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord**.*
- *John 4:10 Jesus answered her, If you knew **the gift of God**, and Who it is that is saying to you, Give Me a drink; you would have asked Him, and He would have given you **living water**.*

Note: At this special time of year, let's think of what Christmas truly is about—**Jesus!** He is the **greatest Gift** ever given or that you will ever receive. Remember to focus on Him and say thank you!

- *2 Corinthians 9:15:*

***Thanks be to God for His inexpressible Gift!***