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May the peace and hope of Christ's birth

Grades 7-12

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Bible Verse

Luke 2:8-14

8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in doths and lying in a manger." 13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the Living Word Ahwatukee 1 Youth Update for the week of 12/20/15

be with you now and in the days ahead ...

Greetings!

This week, we took a little break from our ongoing series and talked about the meaning of Christmas. We discussed various Christmas traditions and gifts we've received.

We then read about and took a detailed look at the birth of Jesus as described in Luke 2:1-20 and asked if somebody who didn't know anything about Christmas would be able to tell what Christmas was about by looking at our celebrations.

We discussed the true meaning of Christmas and found it in **John 3:16** in where God loved us so much that he gave us his son, Jesus, to save us from ourselves to be in a personal relationship with Him and we did absolutely nothing to deserve it.

We said Christmas is really all about God's amazing unconditional love for us and His giving us the most amazing gift ever in His Son Jesus Christ.

We thought about if somebody were to observe us celebrating Christmas, would they know the true meaning of Christmas from watching us. We talked about ways we could show others the true meaning of Christmas such as glorifying and praising God for all He has done and sharing God's love and telling everyone all about God's amazing gift for all people in His Son Jesus Christ.

We said that it doesn't mean that we shouldn't be celebrating with presents, trees, lights, santa, etc. but we should also not let all these other things distract us from the true meaning of

