

Christmas Season Devotionals

Week Four – Day 19

What Child Is This?

At the time of creating this hymn, This carol first appeared in *Christmas Carols New and Old* (1867). It was written by William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898). He wrote many Christmas and Easter carols, but the most widely known is "What Child Is This?" written about 1865 and set to the traditional folk melody, "Greensleeves," (The Carols We Love, by Daniel Partner). Dix served as an insurance company manager and had been struck by a critical illness. While recovering, he experienced a spiritual revival that led him to write several hymns, including lyrics to "What Child is This?" Although it was formulated in Great Britain, the hymn is more popular in the United States than in its country of origin today, (godtube.com).

Craft Ideas – <https://happyhomefairyt.com/baby-jesus-crafts/>

Video by Carrie Underwood: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ePja2yZhQw>

What Child is this, who laid to
rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with
anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch, are
keeping?

Chorus:
This, this is Christ, the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

Raise, raise a song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy for Christ is born,
The babe, the Son of Mary.
[Chorus]

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king to own Him.
The King of kings, salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
[Chorus]

Questions/statements for individuals or families to respond to:

- Who is Jesus to you?
- What do you think: Could anyone who saw baby Jesus, imagine He was God?
- *The King of kings salvation brings:* Read Romans 5:8 and talk about how Jesus brought salvation.

Digging Deeper

1. Various people in history have viewed Jesus as a "good teacher, a good example, a madman, a religious fake, a man without fault, an emperor of love, a highest model of religion, a superstar," ("What Child Is This?" Grace To You Ministries, Dec. 24, 1972, gty.org). What words do you use to describe Jesus Christ?
2. Examine the following short list of references to get a taste what the Bible says about Jesus Christ: John 1:1-18; 10:30; 20:28; Philippians 2:1-11; Hebrews 1:1-4.
3. What does the following sentence mean to you? *The Kingdom of God is where Jesus is.*