



# **The Perfect Gift**

**A Jesus Cares Christmas Service**

Level A

## ***The Perfect Gift: A Jesus Cares Ministries Christmas Service***

Written by Julie Luetke

Edited by Jane Mose

To God be the glory!

**Overview:** *The Perfect Gift* Level A is designed for very low level students. Even the pastor's words are written with simplicity in mind. During the course of this Christmas service, eight gifts are opened. The contents of these gifts are as follows:

Gift #1: an angel figurine

Gift #2: Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus figures from a nativity set

Gift #3: shepherds and sheep figures from a nativity set

Gift #4: Bible

Gift #5: cross

Gift #6: an Easter lily (silk, paper, or just a picture of a lily)

Gift #7: crown

Gift #8: picture of Jesus

As people arrive, each should be given a paper cross to be used during the "Lift High the Cross" song. The crosses can be cut from old Christmas cards. This keeps the Christmas theme but is still a cross.

*The Perfect Gift* has a second version that is designed for students with a wider range of abilities. That is called *The Perfect Gift* Level B.

The suggested songs are taken from two sources:

*Christian Worship*

*Everyone Sing & Sign*

Both of these books are available from Northwestern Publishing House, [www.nph.net](http://www.nph.net).

Scriptures taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. [www.zondervan.com](http://www.zondervan.com).

JCM Media  
Belle Plaine, Minnesota  
Toll Free: 1-888-600-TLHA (8542)  
Telephone: (952) 873-6000  
Website: [www.tlha.org](http://www.tlha.org)

JCM Media is a service of Jesus Cares Ministries, a ministry of The Lutheran Home Association based in Belle Plaine, Minnesota.

**In all of your advertisement fliers, service folders, and any printed publications please include the following:**

Copyright © 2011 by JCM Media, Belle Plaine, MN. All rights reserved.

# The Perfect Gift

♪ **Congregation sings:** “Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes,” stanzas 1 and 2 (*Christian Worship*, hymn 12)

**Pastor:** The hymn stanza says, “The Savior comes, the Savior promised long.” In the beginning God promised to send a Savior to rescue us from the punishment for our sins. We need this gift because we cannot save ourselves from eternal death in hell. In the Bible, Isaiah wrote in chapter 9 verse 6 about the coming of the Savior. Isaiah said,

**Student:** “To us a Child is born.

**Student:** “To us a Son is given.”

**Pastor:** A prophet named Micah told in chapter 5 verse 2 where the Christ would be born. He wrote,

**Student:** “But you, Bethlehem . . . out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel.”

**Pastor:** This is how God announced the coming of the Savior:

*Student opens box #1: angel.*

**Pastor:** Luke 2 tells us that a long time ago a young woman named Mary lived in a city called Nazareth. One day an angel appeared to her. The angel came to Mary with a special message.

**Student:** You are going to have a baby. The baby’s name will be Jesus.

**Poem by all students:**

An angel came to Mary  
When she was all alone  
To tell of Jesus’ coming,  
To make the good news known.

**Pastor:** In Matthew 1, we read that God also sent an angel to Joseph. Joseph wanted Mary to be his wife. The angel told Joseph that Mary would be the mother of Jesus. The angel said to Joseph,

**Student:** Call his name Jesus.

**Pastor:** For he will save his people from their sins.

*Student opens box #2: Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus.*

**Pastor:** Here is how the Bible describes the birth of Jesus in Luke 2:1-7:

*Pastor reads Luke 2:1-7.*

♪ **Students and congregation sing:** “Away in a Manger” (*Christian Worship*, hymn 68)  
*Students sing stanza 1; congregation and students stanzas 2 and 3.*

♪ **Congregation sings:** “Joy to the World,” stanzas 1 and 2 (*Christian Worship*, hymn 62)

*Student opens box #3: shepherds and sheep.*

**Pastor:** The first people to hear about the birth of the Savior were shepherds who were out in the fields watching their sheep. The Bible tells us about it in the book of Luke.

*Pastor reads Luke 2:8-14.*

♪ **Students and congregation sing:** “Silent Night! Holy Night!” (*Christian Worship*, hymn 60)  
*Students sing stanza 1; congregation and students stanzas 2 and 3.*

♪ **Students and congregation sing:** “Angels We Have Heard on High,” stanzas 1 and 2 (*Christian Worship*, hymn 63)  
*The congregation sings the verses, and students join in the refrains.*

*Student opens box-#4: Bible.*

**Pastor:** One of God’s most wonderful gifts to us is his Word, the Bible. In it we hear the good news of Jesus and how he came to earth to save us. We hear God’s Word at home, in church, and here at Jesus Cares Bible class. Here at Jesus Cares we have learned how God wants us to live, how he wants us to treat others, and most of all what Jesus has done for us. The Bible is God’s gift to us.

♪ **Students sing:** “The Bible Is God’s Word,” stanzas 1-4 (*Everyone Sing & Sign*, Northwestern Publishing House)

*Student opens box #5: cross.*

**Pastor:** Some people at the time of Jesus hated him and did not believe that he was the Savior. They put him to death on a cross. We know that Jesus died to pay for our sins. What a glorious gift!

♪ **Congregation sings:** “Were You There” (*Christian Worship*, hymn 119)

*Student opens box #6: lily.*

**Pastor:** Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? As God’s children we know that Jesus didn’t stay in the grave. He came alive again on Easter morning. As we celebrate in church Jesus’ resurrection on Easter Sunday, we often see a beautiful lily. It reminds us of the new life we have in Christ.

♪ **Congregation sings:** "I Know that My Redeemer Lives," stanzas 1, 2, and 8  
(*Christian Worship*, hymn 152)

*Student opens box #7: crown.*

**Pastor:** We know that Jesus is preparing a place for us in heaven. Someday when we die Jesus will take us home to heaven. He says to you and me in Revelation 2:10,

**Student:** "Be faithful, even to the point of death,

**Student:** "and I will give you the crown of life."

**Pastor:** The crown of life that Jesus promised us is life with him in heaven, forever and ever. What a wonderful gift! So, the perfect gift is:

*Student opens box #8: picture of Jesus.*

**Student:** Jesus is the perfect gift!

**Pastor:** At this time let us raise our crosses in the air as we sing our praise to God with the song, "Lift High the Cross."

♪ **Congregation sings:** "Lift High the Cross" (*Christian Worship*, hymn 579)

**Pastor:** We hope that this Christmas season you are filled with gratitude to our loving God for giving us the perfect gift!

**Offering**

**Prayers**

**Blessing**

**Pastor:** Let us close with the singing of one last Christmas hymn.

♪ **Congregation sings:** "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come," stanzas 1-6,15  
(*Christian Worship*, hymn 38)