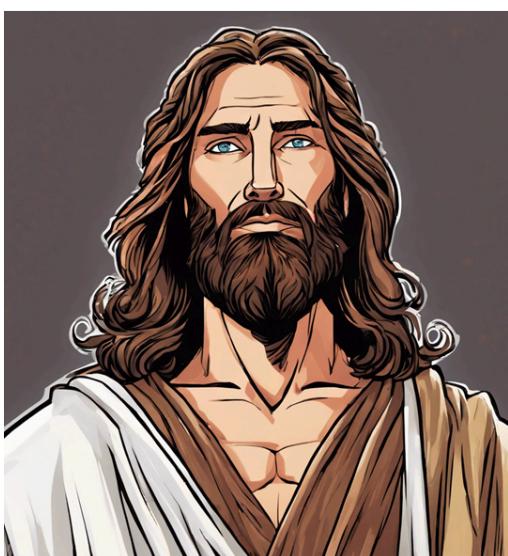


# Santa Shows Us How to Follow Jesus

By Larry Richman



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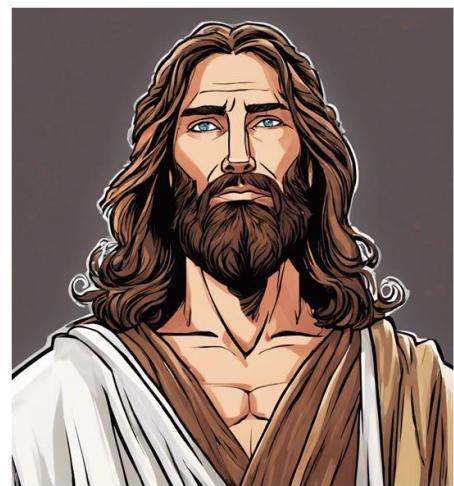
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2000 years ago, the Virgin Mary and her husband, Joseph, went to Bethlehem to pay their taxes.



It was so crowded that they had to sleep  
with the animals. And that night the baby  
Jesus was born.



That little boy grew up and is the Savior of the world. His life made it possible for us to be forgiven of things we do wrong. His gift to us makes it possible to return home after this life to our Heavenly Father.



A few hundred years after Jesus was born, there was a man named Nicholas. His parents were wealthy Christians, and they taught Nicholas to have faith in Jesus and to help others. His parents died when he was young.



But rather than being sad for himself, Nicholas used his wealth to help other people, especially people who were poor and defenseless. He gave away bags of gold to people who needed it.



Since Nicholas loved God so much, he became Bishop Nicholas and served people in his church. He was known for his many acts of compassion and service. He later became Saint Nicholas, and people all around the world remember the good things he did.



Over the years, people began to call him Saint Nick or Santa Claus. He shows us that it is important to follow Jesus by loving other people and serving them.



All around the world, people celebrate the birth of Jesus with customs that remind us about Jesus Christ, such as the Christmas tree with lights and a star on top, Christmas presents, a log burning in the fireplace, and special foods, like fruit cake, turkey, and eggnog.



Although Christmas is a celebration of Jesus's birth, Santa Claus is a symbol of Christian love and kindness. Santa shows us how to follow Jesus.

Although Christmas is a celebration of Jesus's birth,  
Santa Claus is a symbol of Christian love and kindness.  
He shows the spirit of giving and concern for others.

