

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Christmas Carol Analysis

Find references to the Gospel of Matthew, chapters 1–2; the Gospel of Luke, chapters 1–2; and the theological concepts reflected in the lyrics of Christmas carols.

### Part 1

Analyze the Christmas carol “What Child Is This?” as a class for references to the infancy narratives. Read the lyrics as you listen to the carol:

#### “What Child Is This?”

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary’s lap, is sleeping?
2. Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, While shepherds watch are keeping?
3. This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
4. Haste, haste to bring him laud, The Babe, the Son of Mary!  
(*Note: Haste means “hurry”, and laud means “praise.”*)
5. So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh, Come peasant king to own Him,
6. The King of kings, salvation brings, Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
7. Raise, raise the song on high, The Virgin sings her lullaby:
8. Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The Babe, the Son of Mary!

**Scripture References:** Notice which lyrics reference Scripture. Cross-reference the Christmas carol lyrics with the Gospel of Matthew, chapters 1–2, and the Gospel of Luke, chapters 1–2. Fill in the chart handout with the carol’s line number, the lyric, and the Scripture reference.

**Theological Concepts:** Notice which lyrics make theological statements. Fill in the first two columns of the chart handout with the line number and the lyric, and answer the questions in the third column.

### Part 2

In groups or pairs, analyze a Christmas carol for references to the infancy narratives just as you did in part 1. Your teacher will provide you with lyrics to your assigned carol. Complete the chart together.



## Part 3

Use the information from your completed chart and transfer it into a slide presentation. You will share your presentation with the class.

- **Slide 1:** Title slide with the name of the Christmas carol and the names of the group members.
- **Slide 2:** Titled “Matthew Infancy Narrative,” this slide will include the content from section 1. Offer a bulleted list with the line number, the specific lyrics you are referencing, and the Gospel, chapter, and verse.
- **Slide 3:** Titled “Luke Infancy Narrative,” this slide will include the content from section 2. Offer a bulleted list with the line number, the specific lyrics you are referencing, and the Gospel, chapter, and verse.
- **Slide 4:** Titled “Incarnation,” this slide will offer a bulleted list with the line number, the specific lyrics referenced, and a response as to whether it references the humanity or divinity of Jesus (or both).
- **Slide 5:** Titled “Paschal Mystery,” this slide will offer a bulleted list with the line number, specific lyrics referenced, and a response as to what part of the definition of *Paschal Mystery* is identified.
- **Slide 6:** Titled “Mary,” this slide will offer a bulleted list with the line number, specific lyrics referenced, and a response as to which theological concept is referenced (the Virgin Birth or *Theokotos*).  
*Note:* If your assigned carol does not reference Mary, write “None” in this slide.

## Presentations

- Introduce your group and your Christmas carol, and play part of the carol.
- Present the analysis on each content slide to the class. Each group member must present a portion of the content.

