

Dear parents/guardians/grandparents,

This month we are looking at two symbols: IHS and X. These are called the Christogram and Chi.

Back when the stories of Jesus were written down, they didn't speak English. Or French or Spanish or German or Italian or Portuguese. The first stories about Jesus were written in ancient Greek. The Greek language has a different alphabet. Last month, we looked at the beginning and ending letters of the Greek alphabet. The Alpha and Omega are letters used to describe God. God is everything. The beginning and the end. The letters we are looking at this month are first three letters used to spell out the name Jesus in Greek and a shorthand for the title Christ, which means Messiah.

In Greek, the name Jesus is spelled IHΣΟΥΣ. The first three letters are called iota, eta, and sigma.

The Greek letter X is called chi. Centuries ago, early Christians used this letter as an abbreviation for Christ. Whenever you see Xmas, know that it is actually Christmas.

IHS means Jesus and you can see these letters in fancy writing in our sanctuary. X means Christ.

Let's hear about the first Christmas, when baby Jesus was born. In your Beginner's Bible, please turn to page 271 and read the story of "Baby Jesus is Born".

- I wonder how Mary and Joseph felt having to travel far from their home. Do you travel at Christmas?
- I wonder how they felt sleeping surrounded by all the animals.
- I wonder how you feel knowing that God was born as baby Jesus.
- I wonder how you celebrate your birthday.

In your packet is a craft for making a baby Jesus ornament, a coloring page, the Greek letters that are the symbols for Jesus Christ, and some paper and stickers for making your own Happy Birthday card to Jesus.



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*IHS*

*X*