

Lord, we are closing in on the big day! Christmas has changed so much down through the years. From the humble beginning in Bethlehem, where you were born in a stable and laid in a manger, Christmas has become an elaborate festival that includes decorations, special music, and the exchanging of gifts.

Unfortunately, the myth of Santa Claus has replaced the reality of Christ.

Help us to find the true joy of Christmas in the fact that you loved us enough to become one of us, you were willing to struggle as we struggle, to experience the same frustrations and disappointments that plague our lives, to suffer as we suffer -

you stepped down from heaven so that we could be lifted up by your love and grace and be included in the communion of saints.

Let us never forget that without you there is no Christmas; there is no hope; there is no joy. There ~~are~~ is forgiveness for our sins. There are new opportunities for our lives, and we know the assurance of your love forever and ever -